CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, September 20, 2012, and called to order by Chairperson Falkenberg at 4:07 p.m. in the Board Room, Room M210, at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus of Milwaukee Area Technical College.

A. **ROLL CALL:**

Members Present:
Lauren Baker, Charles Bruders, Michael Burke, Timothy Elverman, Janice Falkenberg, Trevor Kubatzke, Jerry Manz, and Adam Stozier

Members Absent:
Ellis Bromberg, Archie Graham, Michael Rosen and Marwill Santiago

B. **COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW:**

The Legislative Task Force meeting was noticed in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings law.

C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF August 24, 2012 MEETING:**

Ms. Baker moved, and Mr. Manz seconded, that the minutes be approved. The Task Force concurred.

D. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Legislative Update:**

   a. **Federal:**

   **2013 Federal Budget and Congressional Wrap Up**

   Mr. Elverman reported that Democratic Senator Harry Reid (Senate Majority Leader) and Republican Representative John Boehner (House Speaker) reached an agreement on a six-month Continuing Resolution (CR) which will keep the federal government operating at current levels from October 1, 2012 – March 27, 2013. As a result, Pell grants and Perkins funding should continue at the FY 2012 levels.

   Mr. Elverman noted that before Congress adjourns, the Republican House plans to vote against allowing President Obama the right to grant waivers to states giving them the right to allow individuals in their W-2 programs to comply with work requirements by attending Technical Colleges or other
schools for training. The Senate will not take up the measure, so the President’s W-2 waivers will go forward. Wisconsin has not applied for such a waiver.

b. State:

**Workforce Development Committees and Task Forces**

Mr. Elverman stated that workforce training continues to be the major topic of interest to all parties at the state level, including Governor Scott Walker and his special appointee on that issue, Tim Sullivan. Following the release of Tim Sullivan’s special report to the Governor in August, Dr. Burke and other Task Force members reached out to Mr. Sullivan and invited him to the campus. He met with Dr. Burke on September 13. Dr. Burke reported that during the meeting with Mr. Sullivan he raised some core issues that were discussed in the report, and clarified/corrected some statements that had been made regarding MATC. In general Dr. Burke applauded Mr. Sullivan’s efforts in terms of advocating for a set of courses that transfer within the state from one school to another. Dr. Burke and other Task Force committee members noted that we do not want to “point fingers” or blame the UW System as these issues are being discussed. Dr. Burke invited Mr. Sullivan to visit our Oak Creek campus during October to tour our ECAM center and further discuss MATC’s programs.

Mr. Elverman stated that as a result of Mr. Sullivan’s White Paper, it is likely that there will be legislative initiatives introduced to address some of the issues/concerns discussed in his report. He noted that such legislative initiatives could be included in the Governor’s budget document next February, or could be introduced as “stand alone” bills.

Ms. Baker applauded the invitation extended to Mr. Sullivan to tour the ECAM center, and noted that Directors Dull and Katz should also be invited to join such a tour when it is scheduled, since they both are involved in manufacturing. Dr. Burke reported that the college had, coincidentally, just received a $17 million grant for advanced manufacturing.

Mr. Elverman informed the Task Force of the following meeting dates and locations for Committees and Task Forces whose activities and agendas are being monitored by the college regarding the workforce issue:

*Governor’s Task Force on Minority Unemployment in Milwaukee* meets September 25 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Bradley Tech High School in Milwaukee, focusing on the Wisconsin Corrections System.

*Governor’s Wisconsin Council on Workforce Development (chaired by Tim Sullivan)* meets October 11 in Madison at the Best Western Inn On The Park, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.
2013-15 State Biennial Budget Proposal
The Task Force discussed the Wisconsin Technical College System Agency Budget Request for the 2013-15 biennial budget, which was submitted to Governor Walker and the Department of Administration (DOA) on September 17. Mr. Elverman stated that the document outlines what the Tech College system is proposing to the Governor’s office in terms of the next biennial budget. He reported that the Governor had asked for zero funding increases from all of the state agencies and departments. The Task Force members noted that the WTCS proposal shows how the Tech College system can assist the state in reaching its goals in the areas of education and workforce training. The WTCS budget document outlines three proposals for assisting the state in achieving its goals: the Wisconsin Skills Link Program; the Adult Career Pathways Program; and the Kick Start Youth Career Pathway Program. Mr. Elverman noted that the WTCS Board is requesting an additional $90.03 million GPR over the biennium. The WTCS 2012-13 base funding level for 2012-13 is $108.5 million. Dr. Burke responded that behind the request is solid research on unmet needs and the cost to fulfill all of the Technical Colleges’ waiting list needs. Other Task Force members agreed that the budget request was ambitious, but justified. The Governor and the DOA will now review all the agency budget requests and then submit a budget bill to the legislature in February of 2013.

c. Local:

Advocacy Planning
Janice Falkenberg shared information with the Task Force committee regarding the development of a Legislative Affairs/Legislative Task Force Committee link on the college’s web page. She noted that the webpage is not live and is a work in progress. Mr. Stozier would like to add a link for the Wisconsin Student Government. Ms. Falkenberg and Mr. Elverman are also working on a written Legislative Advocacy Plan for 2013 for the college which will be finalized after the November elections.

Closing of Freeway Ramps – West Allis Campus
It was noted that Mr. Bauknecht had been in contact with the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the redevelopment plans for I-94 which could include the possible elimination of exit and entrance ramps that could affect the West Allis campus. The DOT officials said they welcomed comments from MATC on the issue and stated that they haven’t made any final decisions. Dr. Burke has already sent a letter to the DOT noting the college’s concerns. Ms. Falkenberg will work with Al Pinckney, VP, West Allis Campus to schedule a meeting with West Allis officials to strategize and coordinate on this issue.
d. **Tentative Meeting Dates – FY2012-13**

The Task Force will meet the following dates at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room (M210):

- October 18, 2012
- November 15, 2012
- December 13, 2012
- January 17, 2013
- February 21, 2013
- March 21, 2013
- April 11, 2013
- May 23, 2013
- June 20, 2013

E. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Desma P. Madison*

Secretary  
Legislative Task Force