CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, November 15, 2012, and called to order by Chairperson Falkenberg at 4:05 p.m. in the Board Room, Room M210, at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus of Milwaukee Area Technical College.

A. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Ellis Bromberg, Jason Bauknecht, Charles Bruders, Michael Burke, Timothy Elverman, Janice Falkenberg, Trevor Kubatzke and Marwill Santiago

Members Absent:

Lauren Baker, Archie Graham, Jerry Manz, Michael Rosen and Adam Stozier

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 OCTOBER 18, 2012 MEETING:

Mr. Kubatzke moved, and Mr. Bruders seconded, that the minutes be approved. The Task Force concurred.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

a. Federal:

Elections and Federal Budget Outlook
With President Obama being re-elected, Task Force members expressed some optimism that Pell Grants, funding for community colleges, and technical training programs will be preserved in future federal budgets. However, the Task Force members noted that nothing is certain regarding those funding priorities until President Obama and Congressional leaders reach an agreement regarding the sequestration process that is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2013. Mr. Elverman noted Tammy Baldwin’s election to replace retiring U.S. Senator Herb Kohl, and the fact that with her election, the Democrats retain a 53 to 45 advantage in the U.S. Senate (with two other Independent Senators also caucusing with the Democrats). That Democratic majority in the Senate also gives the Task Force members some hope regarding future funding for MATC’s priorities. The Task Force members noted that there were no other changes at the federal level as a result of the November elections regarding those who represent MATC’s service area in the House of Representatives, including: Representatives Paul Ryan, Gwen Moore, Thomas Petri and James Sensenbrenner.
b. **State:**

**Elections and State Budget**
The Task Force members reviewed the November election results and noted that
the elections resulted in Republicans retaking control of the State Senate (18 to
15) and retaining control in the Assembly (60 to 39). The committee further
discussed the newly elected legislators who represent MATC’s service area. It
was also noted that Sen. Chris Larson from Milwaukee’s 7th Senate District, was
elected as the Senate Minority Leader. Mr. Bauknecht reported that all
Republican members currently serving on the Joint Finance Committee are
expected to remain on the committee with the exceptions of Representatives Vos
and Kleefisch. He also stated that Representative John Nygren is a clear favorite
to Chair the Joint Finance Committee; replacing Rep. Vos, who is the new
Speaker in the Assembly. The Democrats have not identified who will be
appointed to fill the four slots they will have on the Joint Finance Committee.
The Task Force members discussed the fact that the WTCS and MATC do not
have any clear indication at this point regarding decisions that Gov. Walker and
his administration are making regarding the 2013-15 biennial budget. Mr.
Bauknecht reported that he had advocated for additional funding for MATC and
the Tech Colleges during a meeting with Gov. Walker’s staff two weeks earlier.
In that meeting he also advocated increasing the capital expenditure limit for
Tech Colleges in the statutes from $1.5 million to $3 million.

c. **Local:**

**Closing of Freeway Ramps – West Allis Campus**
The college continues to communicate with the DOT and West Allis officials to
ensure that current exit and entry ramps on I-94 leading to the West Campus
remain unaffected by the planned overhaul/reconstruction of that freeway.

**Milwaukee County Budget Amendment Regarding Food Service**
Mr. Elverman reported to the Task Force that County Board Chair Marina
Dimitrijevic had offered a successful amendment to the 2013 Milwaukee County
budget which called for Milwaukee County administrators to begin
negotiations/discussions with MATC to see if the college could provide culinary
and food services in the Courthouse Facilities, beginning in July, 2013. Dr. Burke
and our culinary staff will discuss this idea with Ms. Dimitrijevic in the near
future. It was noted that MATC did not seek this amendment and had not made a
commitment to provide food services to the Courthouse prior to its approval.

2. **Advocacy Planning:**

Mr. Elverman distributed an updated 2013-14 Legislative Advocacy Plan, which
combined suggestions from documents presented by Dr. Burke and Mr.
Elverman at the October Task Force meeting. The Task Force Committee
reviewed the Advocacy Plan, which highlights major issues that could affect the
college at all levels of government, and describes strategies to deal with those
issues. Task Force members suggested some additional changes to the plan. The
plan will be presented to the Board in December for approval.

Ms. Falkenberg also provided an update regarding the advocacy information that
will be provided on the college’s web page. She said that parts of the Advocacy
Plan will be on the webpage, along with connections to other resources/tools the college community can use in their advocacy endeavors. The webpage information should be available before the beginning of the new legislative session in January.

**Tentative Meeting Dates – FY2012-13**

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

- 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 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Desma P. Madison*

Secretary
Legislative Task Force