CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, December 13, 2012, and called to order by Chairperson Falkenberg at 4:06 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, Jason Bauknecht, Charles Bruders, Michael Burke, Timothy Elverman, Janice Falkenberg Jerry Manz, Michael Rosen Marwill Santiago

Members Absent:

Ellis Bromberg, Archie Graham, Trevor Kubatzke 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 NOVEMBER 15, 2012 MEETING:

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

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

   a. Federal:

      Federal Budget
      Task Force members discussed the negotiations taking place between President Obama and Republican House leaders attempting to reach a budget compromise prior to the January 1, 2013 fiscal cliff/sequestration deadline. Task Force members noted that it was difficult to anticipate the funding level for Pell Grants, education programs, or Public Broadcasting since most of the negotiations were taking place in private. Mr. Rosen stated that he had met with Sen. Herb Kohl’s staff regarding Perkins and Pell Grant funding, and had been assured that funding for those priorities would not be cut.

      ACCT Legislative Summit
      Dr. Burke, J. Falkenberg, T. Elverman and some members of the MATC Board will attend the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington D.C. in February. Mr. Elverman is working with Dr. Burke and the college’s grant writers to determine which federal agencies and legislators to visit during their stay to discuss MATC’s legislative priorities, as well as grants and proposals.
Financial Aid Rules
Mr. Manz updated the Task Force on information he received from the National Association of Financial Aid Administrators regarding Pell Grant funding for the 2013-14 school year. He noted that while Pell Grant funding appears stable for 2013-14, they are projecting a $5 billion shortfall for the following year. He also discussed new federal financial aid eligibility rules and their impact on MATC students. Of particular importance is the “150% Rule”, which limits students’ eligibility for receiving federal financial aid to a 12 semester lifetime limit. It also limits eligibility to enrollment in courses equal to 150% of the student’s program requirements for graduation. Ms. Baker stated that cuts to the SEOG and federal work study programs need to be a focal point for discussion when in Washington D.C. at the ACCT Conference in February.

b. State:

2013-15 Biennial Budget
Mr. Elverman stated that Governor Scott Walker and his staff are finalizing plans for his 2013-15 biennial budget, which will be introduced in early February. He and Jason Bauknecht, and other HWZ staff, have met several times with the Governor’s staff to discuss the budget process and to defend MATC’s stewardship of state funds. He noted that Paul Gabriel and other Tech College advocates have been having similar meetings with the Governor’s staff.

Dr. Burke stated that he spoke with Lisa Boyd from the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). She stated that individuals had voiced concerns in the past to her and DWD Secretary Reggie Newson that MATC was difficult to work with. Dr. Burke updated her on MATC’s partnerships and business initiatives, and also called Secretary Newson. Ms. Boyd and Secretary Newson agreed with Dr. Burke that some of the perception of MATC was “old news”, and that they looked forward to improving the dialogue between MATC and DWD so that such perceptions do not continue. The Task Force members discussed the fact that the Governor and his staff seem inclined to propose giving workforce training resources to entities other than the Tech Colleges. Ms. Baker stated that in reviewing State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Ever’s proposed budget, she noted that he had placed a strong emphasis on career and technical education.

Committee Assignments
Mr. Elverman discussed the appointment of Sen. Alberta Darling as the Co-Chair of the powerful Joint Finance Committee. He noted that Sen. Bob Wirch from Kenosha had also been appointed to that committee, seemingly replacing Sen. Lena Taylor, who is no longer a member of the committee. Other Senators from our area who are on the Joint Finance Committee include Senators Mary Lazich and Glenn Grothman.

Same Day Voter Registration
The Task Force members discussed the fact that Governor Walker recently stated he would like to do away with same-day voter registration, which could have a negative impact on MATC’s students. While Sen. Alberta Darling and Rep. Joel Kleefisch said they would introduce such legislation, the legislators and the Governor backed away from advocating such a change when they learned it
could cost the state an estimated $5.2 million to implement it. Mr. Rosen mentioned that a referendum supporting same-day voter registration had already passed in Dane County and that a similar referendum is likely to be put on the spring ballot in Milwaukee.

c. Local:

**Freeway Ramps for West Allis and Mequon Campuses**
Meetings that have been held with DOT and West Allis officials by a variety of individuals from the college have been productive and the Task Force members now believe that the entry and exit ramps that serve the West Allis campus will remain as I-94 is rebuilt sometime between 2014 and 2019. These meetings with DOT representatives have also led to a discussion of the possibility of adding exit and entry ramps which would serve the Mequon campus when that portion of the freeway system is rebuilt during the next 10 years.

**Milwaukee Ordinance Regarding Funding for For-Profit Colleges/Developer**
The Task Force discussed a proposed ordinance, File No. 120737, introduced on September 25, 2012 by Milwaukee Alderwoman Milele Coggs. The ordinance would prohibit any Milwaukee financial assistance for any for-profit institution of higher education, or for any developer of a project that would include selling or leasing real estate to a for-profit college, unless the applicant could show that it is in compliance with all U.S. Department of Education regulations pertaining to program integrity, which are listed in 34 CFR 600. Mr. Rosen explained how he worked with Alderwoman Coggs as she drafted the proposed ordinance, and Mr. Elverman explained the federal regulations referenced in the proposed ordinance. After a short discussion, Mr. Rosen moved, and Mr. Santiago seconded, that the Task Force recommend to the Board that the college go on record in support of the proposed ordinance. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Redevelopment or New Construction Related to BMO Harris Bradley Center**
Civic and business leaders are discussing the possibility of building a new arena or stadium to replace the BMO Harris Bradley Center. It was agreed by all Task Force members that MATC management and the Board need to be engaged in these discussions to attempt to ensure that the taxpayers and all MATC stakeholders are well served by whatever decisions are made regarding this subject. Dr. Burke and Ms. Falkenberg said that they had already had some discussions regarding this topic, and agreed with the concern expressed by other Task Force members.

2. **Advocacy Planning:**

Mr. Elverman distributed a revised proposed 2013-14 Legislative Advocacy Plan for the college. He noted that he had made revisions suggested at the November meeting of the Task Force. The Task Force members agreed to add the two new local issues that had been discussed at the current Task Force meeting to the Advocacy Plan (the Milwaukee Ordinance and the BMO Bradley Center reconstruction). With those additions, Ms. Baker moved, and Mr. Rosen seconded, that the Advocacy Plan be approved and brought to the
December Board meeting for review and adoption. The motion was approved unanimously.

Tentative Meeting Dates – FY2012-13

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

January 17, 2013             April 11, 2013
February 21, 2013             May 23, 2013
March 21, 2013                June 20, 2013

E. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Desma P. Madison*

Secretary
Legislative Task Force