CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, March 21, 2013, and called to order by Chairperson Falkenberg at 4:08 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, Ellis Bromberg, Charles Bruders, Michael Burke, Timothy Elverman, Janice Falkenberg, Trevor Kubatzke, Jerry Manz, Marwill Santiago and Adam Strozier

Members Absent:
Archie Graham and Michael Rosen

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 FEBRUARY 21, 2013 MEETING:

Mr. Manz noted the following change to the minutes: “J. Manz stated that the programs…student employment, college work-study and SEOG.”

Ms. Baker moved, and Mr. Bromberg seconded, that the minutes be approved with the above mentioned change. The Task Force concurred.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

   a. Federal:

   2013 Federal Budget and Sequestration
   T. Elverman reported that the House and the Senate have approved HR 933, a Continuing Resolution (CR) that will keep the federal government operating from March 27 until the end of this fiscal year (September 30). Sequestration continues under the CR for this budget year. While some agencies and departments were given more leeway to deal with the sequestration cuts, the Department of Education was not given the same leeway. We are therefore expecting cuts from 5% to 9% in most federal education programs. An important issue that was rectified on the Senate side was continued funding for veterans’ student tuition. It was also noted that when sequestration went into effect last year, the Department of Education chose to not cut Perkins funding for the 2012-13 academic year when it allocated funds to the states in July of 2012. Therefore, the Perkin’s allocations for the 2013-14 academic year, made in July
this year, will be much more severe, since they will reflect the entire sequestration cut of approximately 9%.

J. Manz stated that the issue of the doubling of interest rates on student loans remains a concern since that is set to go into effect beginning July 1, 2013. Also, the new two-year default rate was released which has increased to 13.3%.

2014 Federal Budget.
The Republican controlled House and the Democratically controlled Senate have both approved budget bills for the 2014 federal fiscal year. Neither of these bills has a chance for approval in the opposite chamber. The House budget calls for further cuts to education programs, and no revenue increases, while the Senate budget would increase education funding. The two chambers will continue negotiations on some kind of a compromise budget bill.

DOE Gainful Employment Rule.
T. Elverman reported that a federal district court ruled on March 20 that the Department of Education could not continue to collect data and make reports related to its “gainful employment” rule. This decision is a further setback for the DOE as it attempts to hold colleges (primarily for-profit colleges) accountable for performance, especially as it relates to student employment related to their field of study while attending college.

Student Government Visits to Washington D.C.
A. Strozier informed the Task Force that he and several other Student Government leaders had traveled to Washington D.C. and visited Wisconsin’s Congressional delegation regarding the Pell Grant, Perkins funding, and other issues. He also discussed a new piece of legislation being drafted that will attempt to help students pay off their student loans by limiting their liability and payments to 10% of their discretionary income for a 10-year period. If they complied with those requirements, the remainder of their loan would be forgiven.

Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization.
T. Elverman noted that the House approved HR 803, legislation known as the "Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act" by a partisan vote of 215 to 202 on March 15. While this bill would reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), it is opposed in this form by almost all Democrats. Therefore, the bill will not be taken up in the Democratically controlled Senate. L. Baker noted that it was therefore very likely that the WIA will not be reauthorized during this Congressional session.

b. State:

T. Elverman distributed his updated report: State Legislation That Could Affect MATC and informed the Task Force of action taken on bills of interest to the college.

2013-15 Biennial Budget (AB 40).
Governor Walker’s proposed two-year state budget was introduced by the Joint Finance Committee as AB 40 on February 20. The Joint Finance Committee has announced four public hearings for the budget bill in April. After the hearings, the Committee will begin deliberations on the budget, with the goal of
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completing action before Memorial Day. Dr. Burke and other college representatives continue to meet with Joint Finance Committee members to update them on the college’s programs and to advocate for adequate resources in the state budget.

Workforce Training Grants (AB 14, SB 23)
The Governor signed AB 14 into law (2013 Wisconsin Act 9) after it was approved by votes of 94-4 in the Assembly and 33-0 in the Senate. It will provide $7.5 million in workforce training grants in each of the next two years. The grants can be requested by both private and public entities, including the Tech Colleges. It will be administered by DWD. MATC supported this legislation.

Carrying a Concealed Weapon on School Grounds (AB 9)
This bill would change Wisconsin law so that certain law enforcement officers would be allowed to carry guns on property where there is a posting prohibiting such action. Currently, off duty or retired police officers must abide by a posting prohibiting the carrying of a gun. The Task Force asked Mr. Elverman to continue to monitor this legislation.

Notice and Degree Requirements for Practice as a Certified Public Accountant (AB 20, SB 39)
Currently, no one can take the examination to become a certified public accountant (CPA) in Wisconsin unless the person has a bachelor’s degree or higher with an accounting concentration from a school accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This legislation would allow people to take the CPA exam if they graduated from any institution accredited by agencies recognized by the federal Department of Education. T. Elverman will continue to monitor this bill.

Funding Postretirement Healthcare Benefits (AB 23, SB 48)
These bills would prohibit local units of government (including Tech Colleges) from providing health care benefits to employees hired after January 1, 2014 unless the benefits are fully funded in a segregated account. The college has made changes to its current contracts to help the college reduce its potential liability for these benefits. T. Elverman will continue to monitor this bill.

Number of Math and Science Credits Required for High School Diploma (SB 51)
This bill was recommended by the Legislative Council’s Special Committee on Improving Educational Opportunities in High School. It would change current law so that a high school diploma could not be awarded to anyone not earning at least 3 credits in math and 3 credits in science, versus the 2 credits that are required for both areas of study under current law. Ms. Baker made a motion that the college go on record in support of this legislation. Ms. Falkenberg seconded. The Task Force concurred.

Fees Charged for Public Records (AB 26)
This bill would allow public bodies (including MATC) to charge a fee for the actual, necessary, and direct cost of deleting, redacting or separating information that’s not subject to public disclosure from the public records being requested. M. Burke made a motion that the college go on record in support of this
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legislation. Mr. Bromberg seconded. The vote was 10-1 in support of the legislation. Motion carried.

c. **Local:**

**Milwaukee Ordinance Regarding Funding for For-Profit Colleges and Developers.**

Alderwoman Milele Coggs has not submitted a revised version of her proposed ordinance (File No. 120737) which would ban City of Milwaukee financial support directed at for profit colleges or projects with developers whose projects include for profit colleges. Her ordinance was “held” by the Chair of the Zonings, Neighborhoods & Development Committee on February 5th when some for profit colleges and Ald. Michael Murphy objected to its original language.

**Tentative Meeting Dates – FY2012-13**

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

- April 11, 2013
- May 23, 2013
- June 20, 2013

E. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison

Secretary
Legislative Task Force