CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, April 11, 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:

Jason Bauknecht, Ellis Bromberg, Janice Falkenberg, Trevor Kubatzke, Michael Rosen and Adam Strozier

Members Absent:

Lauren Baker, Charles Bruders, Michael Burke, Timothy Elverman, Archie Graham, Jerry Manz 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 MARCH 21, 2013 MEETING:

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

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

   a. Federal:

2014 Federal Budget

J. Bauknecht reported that President Obama recently released his proposed budget for 2014. While the President’s budget calls for increasing the maximum Pell Grant to $5,735 and increasing funding for the Work Study Program by $150 million, Mr. Bauknecht noted that the President will have little control over what the Democratically controlled Senate and Republican controlled House finally agree to regarding the 2014 budget. J. Falkenberg distributed an article from The Chronicle of Higher Education entitled “Obama’s Budget Would Increase Pell Grants and Add Incentives on Some Student-Aid Money.” M. Rosen noted that the President’s budget plan does not call for locking in low interest rates on student loans. He stated that the President’s budget would tie the interest rate to the prime rate, which means that student loan interest rates could possibly reach as high as 8%. M. Rosen will forward an article regarding this matter to the members of the Task Force. J. Bauknecht and T. Elverman will continue to monitor the budget actions in the Senate and House.
b. **State:**

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

**Academic and Career Plans for Students (SB 49)**
Starting in 2018, this bill would require schools (including any MATC charter school) to provide an academic and career plan for students beginning in the 6th grade through completion of high school. This bill has been referred to the Committee on Education, but does not yet have a hearing scheduled. The Task Force Committee asked J. Bauknecht and T. Elverman to monitor this bill.

**Mandating Use of U.S. Made Products (AB 45, SB 88) and Encouraging Use of Wisconsin Businesses for Contracts for Goods and Services (AB 48, SB 74)**
Both of these bills have a similar focus. They want to encourage the use of products that are made in the United States, and encourage purchasing goods and services from companies with a presence in Wisconsin. Neither bill has had a hearing. T. Elverman and J. Bauknecht will continue to monitor them.

**Tax Exemption for Building Materials Purchased for a Tech College (AB 76)**
This bill would exempt contractors from paying sales tax on any material purchased by them which are then transferred to a tax-exempt entity (such as a Tech College). This bill has been referred to a Committee and is awaiting a hearing. J. Falkenberg will research the impact that this bill would have on the college. J. Bauknecht would like the college to support this bill if J. Falkenberg’s research shows no negative impact on MATC.

**Mandating Tech College Board Member Information on Websites (SB 87)**
This legislation would require Tech Colleges to post an e-mail address for each of its Board Members, and a phone number for the Board’s Chair on its website. This is something that MATC already has in place. The bill is awaiting a hearing.

**LRB- 1424/1, Transferring Tech College Assets to the State, and Increasing Sales Tax**
Rep. Gary Bies has been circulating this legislative draft that calls for transferring all Tech College assets to the Wisconsin Technical College System, and prohibiting the local Tech College District Boards from levying property taxes to pay for the colleges’ operations. It calls for raising the state sales tax by one cent to help pay for the Tech Colleges. J. Bauknecht noted that few, if any, fellow Republicans would support this kind of legislation because of the proposed tax increase. However, the Task Force members strategized regarding methods to educate all legislators on the value of having local district control, rather than state control of the Tech Colleges. J. Bauknecht and T. Elverman will let Dr. Burke and the other Task Force members know as soon as this legislative draft is introduced as a bill.
c. Local:

Milwaukee Ordinance Regarding Funding for For-Profit Colleges and Developers
Task Force Committee members noted that there has been no new action in the Milwaukee Common Council regarding Ald. Milele Cogg’s 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. M. Rosen explained to the Task Force members that the proposed ordinance was delayed in January because it contained a provision linking city approval of funding to compliance with the new “gainful employment” criteria contained in Department of Education (DOE) rules, and some for-profit college advocates in the city objected to that language. The ordinance is being redrafted, but has not been discussed or debated again by the Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee. M. Rosen and T. Elverman will continue to monitor action on this proposed ordinance.

Advocacy Planning
J. Falkenberg asked the Task Force members to forward suggestions to her and T. Elverman regarding ways in which the college can continue to engage and educate legislative members from the college’s service area on the college’s programs and activities. It was suggested that tours, including tours at the ECAM center in Oak Creek, should be scheduled.

Tentative Meeting Dates – FY2012-13

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

May 23, 2013
June 20, 2013

E. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison

Secretary
Legislative Task Force