CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, June 20, 2013, 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:

Lauren Baker, Jason Bauknecht, Ellis Bromberg, Michael Burke, Tim Elverman, Janice Falkenberg, and Michael Rosen

Members Absent:

Charles Bruders, Archie Graham, Trevor Kubatzke, Marwill Santiago and Adam Strozier

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 May 24, 2013 MEETING:

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

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

   a. Federal:

      2014 Federal Budget
      The Senate Appropriations Committee recently announced its subcommittee allocations for the FY 2014 budget, including a recommended $164.33 billion for the Labor, Health and Human services, and Education Subcommittee. Previously, the House announced its allocations, which slashed educational funding. The Senate Democrats, in contrast, would like to increase the budget by $14.7 billion above the current sequester total (which is $42.5 billion higher in total than the House Republican recommendation). This indicates that the Senate Democrats and House Republicans are not close to a compromise on the 2014 federal budget.
Student Loan Interest Rate Legislation (HR 1911)
T. Elverman reported that the Republican controlled House passed HR 1911 in an attempt to deal with the student loan interest rate increase scheduled for July 1, 2013 (rates will double to 6.8% on that date). He noted that the Senate Democrats do not agree with the major components of HR 1911 and therefore will not vote on that bill as drafted. Instead, Senate and Republican leaders are frantically working on a compromise, with the hopes of voting on it before the July 1 deadline.

b. State:

2013-15 Biennial Budget
T. Elverman reported that the Assembly passed the budget bill (AB 40) on June 19 and the state Senate is scheduled to vote on the budget bill on either June 20 or 21. He noted that there were no changes made by the Assembly to the areas of the budget bill dealing with Tech Colleges, and he does not expect any changes by the Senate. He said MATC has been working with the other Tech Colleges, the District Boards Association, WTCS officials, and representatives from Baird to educate legislative leaders and the Governor’s staff regarding the problems that could result from Sen. Glenn Grothman’s motion 155 to the budget. That motion, regarding bonding authority for the Tech Colleges, was approved by the Joint Finance Committee on May 9. J. Baucknecht and Dr. Burke have visited with a number of legislators and Dr. Burke sent a formal veto request letter regarding that section of the budget to Gov. Walker this week.

Other State Legislation

T. Elverman distributed his updated document entitled “State Legislation That Could Affect MATC” and highlighted several recently introduced pieces of legislation.

Change in Criteria for Workforce Advancement Training Grants (AB 226)
This bill would allow the WTCS to make Workforce Advancement Training Grants to businesses with no more than 250 employees (rather than 100 or fewer under current law), and would allow grants to be made to assist with market expansion or business diversification initiatives. It was approved 13-0 by its Assembly Committee, and passed in the Assembly on 6/12/13. It is waiting for action in the Senate. The Task Force Committee members asked T. Elverman and J. Bauknecht to continue to monitor this bill.

Employer Access and Observation of Internet (AB 218)
This bill would prohibit an employer, educational institution, or landlord from requesting access to personal internet accounts of employees, students, and prospective students and tenants. It would, however, allow an educational institution to view, access, or use information that can be obtained without access information or that is available from the public domain. It had a hearing on 5/29/13. The Task Force Committee members discussed this bill at length and said it deserved further discussion at future Task Force Committee meetings. The Task Force Committee asked T. Elverman and J. Bauknecht to continue to monitor this bill.
Instructional Programs for Nurse Aids (SB 212)

This bill permits DHS to approve instructional programs for nurse aides that include instructional programs in another state if that instruction is substantially the same required under current Wisconsin law. It was referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services. T. Elverman said he discussed this legislation with Dean Dessie Levy and Dr. Burke, and both thought the bill was not problematic for MATC. He will continue to monitor the legislation.

c.  Local:

The Milwaukee Common Council voted 15-0 on June 11 in favor of a new ordinance (File # 120737) which will prohibit the city from providing financial assistance to any for-profit college, or a developer seeking assistance for a project including such a college, if the college is not in compliance with all applicable U.S. Department of Education regulations set forth in 34 CFR 600, and if the college has been found in violation of any provisions of 34 CFR 668 during the previous three years. T. Elverman thanked M. Rosen for his work on this ordinance with its author, Alderwoman Milele Coggs.

E.  ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison