CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Friday, August 23, 2013, and called to order by Chairperson Falkenberg at 12:10 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, Janice Falkenberg, Camille Nicholai and Marwill Santiago

Members Absent:

Ellis Bromberg, Tim Elverman, Archie Graham, Trevor Kubatzke, Michael Rosen 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 JUNE 23, 2013 MEETING:

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

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

   a. Federal:

   Student Loan Interest Rate Legislation (HR 1911)
   J. Bauknecht reported that the student loan interest rate bill (HR 1911) was signed into law by President Obama in early July. As a result of this legislation, undergraduate borrowers will see their student loan interest rate drop from almost 6.8% to 3.86%. Graduate-level unsubsidized Stafford borrowers will see their loan rates drop from 6.8% to 5.41%, and Grad Plus and Parent Plus borrowers will see their loan rates decrease from 7.9% to 6.41%. 

Legislative Task Force
Minutes of August 23, 2013

College Affordability Initiative from President Obama
The Task Force discussed the “College Affordability Initiative” unveiled by President Obama in speeches in August. It appears that the President would like to tie federal aid for colleges to a “frugality rating”. The Task Force members said that while they agree with efforts to link financial assistance to criteria measuring academic progress of the students attending colleges, there are many risks in doing so. L. Baker expressed concern that two-year colleges such as MATC will not fare well if the colleges are evaluated under the metrics being discussed by the President in his plan. The Task Force Committee discussed being pro-active by meeting with our federal legislators (such as Rep. Gwen Moore and Sen. Tammy Baldwin) to discuss the potential negative impact to the college if such a plan were approved by Congress.

b. State:

Legislative Changes
J. Bauknecht reported that the Majority Leader in the State Assembly (Rep. Scott Suder) has resigned from his seat to take a job in the Walker Administration. This will lead to a special election for his Assembly seat. He said another special election is likely for Rep. Mark Honadel’s Assembly seat in South Milwaukee since he is also expected to announce his retirement/resignation in the near future.

Other State Legislation
J. Bauknecht distributed the updated document entitled “State Legislation That Could Affect MATC” and highlighted several recently introduced pieces of legislation, as well as action taken in recent weeks on bills discussed previously by the Task Force.

Changes Affecting Governance and Funding for WTCS (AB 177)
This legislation (discussed previously by the Task Force) would transfer all Technical College district facilities and assets to the Wisconsin Technical College System Board on July 1, 2015 and also prohibit local Tech College district boards from levying property taxes. It would also increase the state’s sales tax by one cent on January 1, 2015 to help pay the costs of operating the Technical Colleges. A public hearing had been scheduled by the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee for 8/29/13. J. Bauknecht noted that public hearing was cancelled, and a new date for a public hearing is likely in September. He reported that MATC has been working with Paul Gabriel and other Tech College advocates to strategize for such a hearing. At the present time, the Tech Colleges are asking their business partners from around the state to attend the hearing and advocate for our existing governance structure. If business owners from MATC’s district are unable to attend the hearing in person, having them send letters of support would be helpful. J. Falkenberg and D. Walker are working together to encourage both Graylene Jones of Schneider Trucking and Mike Bowitz from Bush Precision to attend the hearing or submit letters of support.
Bonding Authority For Construction Grants to Accredited Health Care Teaching Institutions (AB 246)
This bill authorizes the Building Commission to issue up to $125,000,000 in general fund supported borrowing to make construction grants to accredited health care teaching institutions located in Wisconsin. This bill was referred to the Committee on Health. J. Falkenberg stated that if it is determined that MATC is eligible for these grants, the college should register in support of this legislation. She and T. Elverman will conduct further research to determine if MATC might be eligible for funds from this legislation.

Enrollment Requirements For Recipients of Talent Incentive Grants (AB 260, SB 229)
This bill provides that a student need not maintain continuous enrollment in school to remain eligible for a Talent Incentive Grant. Under the bill, HEAB may award a Talent Incentive Grant to the same student for up to ten semesters, whether or not consecutive, but may not award a TIG to a student more than 6 years after the initial grant to that student. This bill was referred to the Colleges & Universities Committee and had a public hearing on 8/15/13. The Task Force Committee members agreed that the college should support this legislation.

Allowing School districts to Begin Fall Classes Prior to September 1 (AB 267, SB 228)
Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, this bill would eliminate the current law which prohibits K-12 school districts from beginning fall classes prior to September 1. T. Elverman and J. Bauknecht will continue to monitor the bill.

Changes to Barbering and Cosmetology (SB 237)
This bill would make several changes to laws governing barbering and cosmetology in Wisconsin. Among those changes, the bill would remove dyeing, tinting, coloring or bleaching from the scope of practices for barbering. It also removes the 10 month requirement for completing the 1000 classroom hours of instruction for barbering. It also reduces the number of hours of practical training required for an apprentice to sit for an examination from 3,712 hours to 1,712 hours. J. Falkenberg will follow up with V. Martin for more direction on this legislation. T. Elverman and J. Bauknecht will continue to monitor the bill.

c. Local:
J. Falkenberg stated that MATC’s lease for facilities formerly occupied by Everest College has been finalized and will now be forwarded to WTCS officials for approval. MATC is also in the process of selling the F Building to the Bradley Center.

The Committee agreed to discuss/strategize regarding what type of activities could enhance the college’s advocacy program. Committee members are encouraged to bring ideas and come prepared to discuss them at the Thursday, September 19 meeting.
**Legislative Task Force**  
**Minutes of August 23, 2013**

**Meeting Dates – FY2013-14**

The Task Force will meet the following dates at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room (M210):

- September 19, 2013           February 20, 2014
- October 17, 2013             March 20, 2014
- November 21, 2013            April 10, 2014
- December 12, 2013            May 22, 2014
- January 23, 2014             June 19, 2014

E. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Desma P. Madison*