CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, December 12, 2013, and called to order by Chairperson Falkenberg at 12:08 p.m. in the Board Room, Room M210, at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus of Milwaukee Area Technical College.

A. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Ellis Bromberg, Charles Bruders, Michael Burke, Tim Elverman, Janice Falkenberg, Gustavo Hinojosa, Camille Nicholai, Trevor Kubatzke, Michael Rosen and Marwill Santiago

Members Absent:

Lauren Baker, Jason Bauknecht, Lindsey Becker and Archie Graham

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 21, 2013 MEETING:

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

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update:

a. Federal:

2014 Federal Budget
House Budget Committee chair Paul Ryan and Senate Budget Committee chair Patty Murray reached a two-year compromise agreement on the 2014 budget prior to the December 13 deadline. The agreement was approved in the House this week and is expected to be approved by the Senate next week. The agreement will eliminate $45 billion from the next round of
sequester cuts that were scheduled to take effect in January, 2014, as well as another $18 billion that were scheduled to impact the 2015 budget.

**DOE Gainful Employment Rule**
It was noted that the Department of Education (DOE) will hold its final negotiating rulemaking listening session on December 13 to discuss unresolved concerns and to review the latest estimates from the Department on how many vocational programs offered by educational institutions would pass, fail or otherwise struggle to meet the gainful employment metrics being discussed. If the panel does not reach consensus, DOE will put forward its own proposed rule early in 2014.

b. **State:**

**State Legislation**
T. Elverman 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.

**Minimum Retirement Age for WRS Participants (AB 470)**
This bill would increase the minimum retirement age to 57 from 55 for most individuals who participate in the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). It would also increase the minimum retirement age to 52 from 50 for police and firefighters. T. Elverman will monitor this legislation, which has not had any public hearings.

**Calculation of Annuity Benefits for WRS (AB 471)**
This bill would change the way a Wisconsin Retirement System annuity is calculated by providing that the final average earnings is based on the five highest annual earnings periods instead of the three highest annual earnings periods. The change would take place beginning 5 years after the bill becomes law. T. Elverman and J. Bauknecht will monitor this legislation, which has not yet had any public hearings.

**Entrepreneurial Assistance Grants for Students (AB 477)**
This bill would authorize the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to award a grant of up to $3000 to a new business for expenses related to hiring students enrolled in classes studying business, engineering, information technology, or a similar field. The WEDC could also award grants of $25,000 to certain colleges where the students have enrolled. T. Elverman noted that this legislation has only Democratic sponsors and is therefore not likely to advance during this legislative session.
Changing the Names of “Wisconsin Higher Education Grants” to “Wisconsin Grants” (AB 532, SB 406)
These bills would change the name of the higher education grant program administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) from “Wisconsin Higher Education Grants” to “Wisconsin Grants”. The Task Force Committee members felt this legislation was non-controversial and not problematic for MATC.

Changing rules for establishing Charter Schools (AB 549)
This bill expands the entities that may establish charter schools to include all the UW institutions, all CESAs, and all Tech College district boards. This bill also eliminates the ability of an independent authorizer (such as MATC) to directly establish and run a charter school. The bill would also expand the area in which MATC could contract with someone to run a charter school from being only within the MPS boundaries to all of the college’s service area, plus adjacent counties. Although MATC does not currently operate or authorize any charter schools, T. Elverman and J. Bauknecht will monitor this legislation and keep the college administration updated regarding its progress.

Changing the Definition of Eligibility for Serving on the Milwaukee Area Technical College Board (LRB-3540/1)
This legislation would further define the word “employer” as it is used in the statutes describing the MATC board. This bill would provide that a person representing an “employer” must have at least two years of experience managing a business entity, nonprofit organization that provides health care services, credit union, or cooperative association with at least 15 employees; or at least two years of experience managing the finances and hiring of personnel of a business entity with at least 100 employees. This draft legislation was authored by Sen. Glen Grothman and Rep. Joe Sanfelippo who are seeking co-sponsors by December 20. The Task Force expects the legislation will be introduced shortly after that date. Task Force members noted that Sen. Grothman was once again introducing legislation impacting only MATC and not other Tech Colleges. T. Elverman and J. Bauknecht will talk to Speaker of the Assembly Robin Vos to determine if he and his colleagues in the Assembly plan to advance this type of legislation. The Task Force Committee, while noting its concerns with this legislation, decided to wait to take further action until after speaking to Rep. Vos and until after the legislation is actually introduced as a bill.

Legislative Elections
The Task Force Committee discussed the upcoming special election to replace Rep. Jeff Stone in the 82nd Assembly District. Democrat John Hermes is facing Republican Ken Skowronski in that December 17 election.
c. Local:

**Proposed Silk Strip Club License in Downtown Milwaukee.** After MATC, the BMO Harris Bradley Center, Marquette University and several other organizations voiced their concern over a proposed strip club at 1118 N. 4th Street, the city of Milwaukee has not moved forward in granting licenses to the proposed owners.

**Cultural and Entertainment Capital Needs Task Force**

Dr. Burke is one of the 42 members of this new task force that was organized by the MMAC. It is looking at the capital needs of all the cultural, artistic and entertainment institutions in Milwaukee County. The task force will meet for the first time on Friday, Dec. 13 (with Dr. Burke in attendance).

**Meeting Dates – FY2013-14**

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

- January 23, 2014
- February 20, 2014
- March 20, 2014
- April 10, 2014
- May 22, 2014
- June 19, 2014

E. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Desma P. Madison*