CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Legislative Task Force Committee was held on Thursday, January 23, 2014, 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:**

Lauren Baker, Jason Bauknecht, Lindsey Becker, Ellis Bromberg, Charles Bruders, Michael Burke, Tim Elverman, Janice Falkenberg, Gustavo Hinojosa, Camille Nicholai, Trevor Kubatzke, Michael Rosen and Marwill Santiago

**Members Absent:**

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 DECEMBER 12, 2013 MEETING:**

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

D. **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. **Legislative Update:**

   a. **Federal:**

   **2014 Federal Budget**

   H.R. 3547, the "Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014," which provides fiscal year 2014 appropriations for projects and activities of the federal government through September 30, 2014, was signed into law by President Obama on January 17. Under this bill, the Pell Grant maximum award receives its automatic inflationary increase from $5,645 to $5,730. This bill also preserves public television funding through 2016. Other
programs, such as TRIO and Perkins will see cuts from 2012 funding levels, but are funded at levels higher than called for under sequestration. Ms. Baker noted that the cuts in funding for Wisconsin under the newly passed budget appropriations bill appear less severe only because Wisconsin’s share of the Perkins basic state grant was already at minimal levels before the new budget was enacted.

**DOE Gainful Employment Rule**
M. Rosen noted that after the Department of Education wrapped up its “listening sessions” in December regarding a proposed “gainful employment” rule, consensus was not reached among the participants. The DOE will therefore now proceed to develop its own proposed rule, which should be published in the Federal Register during the first quarter of 2014.

b. **State:**

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

**Employer Access and Observation of Internet Accounts (AB 218, SB 223)**
This bill would prohibit an employer, educational institution or landlord from requesting personal internet accounts of employees, students, and prospective students and tenants. It would 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. T. Elverman reported that the Senate version of this bill, SB 223 was approved by the Assembly on 1/21/14, and is now waiting to be signed into law by the Governor.

**Changing the Makeup of the Cosmetology Examining Board at DSPS (AB 433, SB 345)**
Among the changes that would be made as a result of this legislation is a requirement that the Department of Safety and Professional Services allow four members of the Cosmetology Examining Board to be affiliated with a cosmetology school. SB 345 passed by voice vote in the Senate on January 14 and in the Assembly on January 21. SB 345 is now waiting for the Governor’s signature.

**Changing the Definition of Eligibility for Serving on the MATC Board (AB 627, SB 476)**
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” on MATC’s Board 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. It was noted that three additional co-sponsors from MATC’s district have signed on to the bill (Rep. Knodl and Senators Darling and Lazich). T. Elverman and J. Bauknecht have spoken with Assembly Speaker Robin Vos to determine if he and his colleagues in the Assembly plan to advance this type of legislation. Rep. Vos indicated that this legislation was not a priority for him. The Task Force Committee discussed strategies for discussing this bill with other legislators, and the advocacy efforts of Paul Gabriel and the District Boards Association relating to this bill. L. Baker will discuss this legislation with MATC’s full Board at the upcoming January meeting.

**Exams and Other Requirements for Instructors in Cosmetology and Barbering (AB 572)**

This bill would prohibit the Cosmetology Examining Board from requiring licensed cosmetologists to complete more than 4 training hours of instruction every two years during an eight year period. It also would change the licensing requirement for cosmetology instructors by eliminating an exam requirement. T. Elverman noted that this bill has not yet had a public hearing.

**LRB-4039, LRB-4066 Proposal to Replace Property Tax Support for Tech Colleges with State Aid**

During his “State of the State” address on Jan. 22, Governor Walker proposed eliminating the current limit on a Tech College’s tax levy and replacing that with a revenue limit. His proposal is to “buy down” the operational mill rate by .89 in each Tech College district ($89 per $100,000 of property value). His bill would allow the districts to recapture their levy authority to the extent state funding is reduced in subsequent years. His legislative proposal would replace $406 million in property taxes with new state funding this year. These bills are to be taken up in a Special Session of the legislature called by the Governor on January 23. The Task Force members noted that while this proposal would not seemingly reduce funding for MATC in the near future, it would also not increase it. It was noted that other Tech College districts and the WTCS were cautiously being supportive of this proposal.

**LRB 3988 and LRB 4068 Proposal to Provide $35 Million to Increase Workforce Training Grants from DWD to Tech Colleges to Reduce Waiting Lists**

The Governor in his “State of the State” address also called for providing the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) with $35 million in funds so that DWD can allocate the funds to Tech Colleges to reduce waiting lists for enrollment in programs and courses in high-demand fields of study. The funds could also be used
for grants to collaborative projects among school districts, Tech Colleges, and businesses to provide high school pupils with industry-recognized certifications in high-demand fields determined by DWD. These bills are also part of the agenda for the Special Session of the legislature called by the Governor on January 23. L. Baker noted that these funds would be welcome, but that some of these funds are being made available because DWD has not been able to successfully roll out other job training programs. Overall, the Task Force members voiced support for this initiative.

**c. Local:**

**Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) District Board Appointment**

J. Falkenberg reported that The District Board Appointment Committee has scheduled its meeting for Thursday, April 3, 2014. Due to staggered terms, there are three board members whose terms expire on June 30, 2014. Also, due to a resignation, there is an additional position that needs to be filled.

**Meeting Dates – FY2013-14**

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

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

**E. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Desma P. Madison