

MINUTES OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING
December 9, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The regular quarterly meeting of the Legislative Task Force was held on Wednesday, December 9, 2021 and called to order by Janice Falkenberg at 12:00 p.m. via Google Meet.

A. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Janice Falkenberg, Bohdan Zachary, Jennifer Mikulay, Ramie Zelenkova of Hubbard, Wilson, & Zelenkova, LLC

B. COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW

The Legislative Task Force meeting was noticed to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2020 MEETING

Minutes were approved by consensus of all members.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legislative Update

a. Local

- None to report.

b. State

- The State Legislature remains adjourned. Governor Tony Evers called for a Special Session of the Legislature on August 31, 2020 on Policing Accountability and Transparency.
- Negotiations among House, Senate and White House leadership remain at a standstill and a compromise on another coronavirus relief package before the end of the year is unlikely.
- Governor Evers issued a new public health emergency and mask order. The new order will last for 60 days (January 19, 2021) unless the Governor ends it, the Legislature comes in to vote to end it, or a lawsuit is brought. A lawsuit is currently pending before the Wisconsin Supreme Court saying the Governor does not have the authority to issue a current public health emergency and mask order.

- Governor Evers unveiled a COVID-19 relief package. The package includes various health care policies including coverage for telehealth services, worker's compensation benefits for certain critical workers, prohibition on evictions and foreclosures, waiving of K12 student assessments, and allowing the rehiring of retired annuitants, among other provisions. The package also includes more funding for community testing and contact tracing. Legislative leaders met with Governor Evers and laid out some of their priorities including contact tracing, liability protections for businesses and others, and improved rapid testing. Conversations are ongoing.
- The Department of Administration released a report this month estimating that state revenues will modestly increase over the next three fiscal years. Highlights of the report include:
 - The state's general fund balance is projected to be \$1.2 billion at the end the 2020-21 fiscal year.
 - The state will see \$1.35 billion in additional revenue growth over the 2021-23 biennium on top of the gross balance of \$1.2 billion surplus.
 - If every agency budget request is approved for the 2021-23 biennium the state would face a \$1.2 billion deficit for the 2021-23 biennium. The largest requests come from the Department of Health Services and the Department of Public Instruction.
 - The Department of Health Services is seeking \$597 million more to support Medical Assistance, but that request is based on accepting federal money to expand the program under the Affordable Care Act. GOP lawmakers rejected the plan in the current budget and doing so again would add another \$588 million to the Department's request.
 - The Department of Public Instruction is seeking more than \$1.6 billion to boost school aids.
 - Typically, it is unlikely all budget requests from agencies will be recommended by the Governor in his budget, or approved by the Legislature.
- The WTCS requested an increase of 2.1% with the majority of that, \$24 million, for grants to district boards to target adult basic education students and English language learners to attain credentials to meet workforce needs for essential occupations.
- The Budget Stabilization Fund stands at \$761.8 million
- The Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities divided into two subcommittees – Education and Economic Development and Law Enforcement Policies and Standards. The subcommittees met earlier this month to establish a framework

for moving forward. The Education and Economic Development subcommittee received testimony from the Department of Public Instruction on educational disparities while the Law Enforcement Policies and Standards subcommittee heard from families impacted by police brutality.

c. Federal

- None to report.

E. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 12:24 p.m. via Google Meet

F. ADJOURNEMENT

Janice moved, Bohdan seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.