

**MINUTES OF THE MILWAUKEE AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE
LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE MEETING
April 21, 2021**

CALL TO ORDER

The regular quarterly meeting of the Legislative Task Force was held on Wednesday, April 22, 2021 and called to order by Janice Falkenberg at 12:02 p.m. via Google Meet.

A. ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Janice Falkenberg, Dr. Martin, Bohdan Zachary, Charles Bruders, 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 DECEMBER 9, 2020 MEETING

Minutes were approved by consensus of all members.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Legislative Update

a. Local

Bohdan shared that MPBS was awarded \$599,560 in emergency funding from the CPB.

b. State

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 60/Senate Bill 55 relating to publication of proceedings of meetings held by certain governmental bodies. Passed the Senate, Assembly action pending. Janice asked that anything Ramie could do to advocate for this bill would be helpful since the college spends significant funds of publishing open meetings with local newspapers. Ramie asked if Janice could provide her with a cost breakdown she would share that information with the Chair's office.

Wisconsin Assembly Bill 149/Senate Bill 183 would give the legislature oversight of federal COVID-19 funds. The bill requires the Governor to submit to the Joint Finance Committee a plan to spend any COVID-19 federal funds received through June 30, 2022 under the current 14-day passive review process. Both houses of the legislature will take up the bills today, the Governor is expected to veto the legislation.

Governor Evers released his 2021-23 Executive Budget on February 16th. The Governor recommends an operating budget of \$45.4 billion in fiscal year 2021-22 and \$45.6 billion in fiscal

year 2022-23. The figure includes all major funding sources. On an annual basis the Governor's budget for fiscal year 2021-22 represents an increase of 9.3 percent over 2020-21 base and for fiscal year 2022-23 an increase of .4 percent over fiscal year 2021-22 base

Joint Committee on Finance announced public hearing dates. The committee will hold three in-person hearings and one virtual hearing. The first in-person hearing is scheduled for Friday, April 9th at UW-Whitewater at 10:00am. The virtual hearing is scheduled for April 28th, more details to follow.

The Legislative Fiscal Bureau released its summary of the Governor's budget recommendation earlier this month. See summary of each agency, program and item contained in the states 2021-23 biennial budget by following this link:

https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lfb/budget/2021_23_biennial_budget/502_summary_of_governor_s_budget_recommendations_march_2021_entire_document

Dr. Jennifer Mikulay shared an update on the HEERF funding. College has expended the first round of monies that came through the CARES Act and subsequently filed a federal report with the Department of Education, which was accepted. CRRSAA funding for the student portion was delayed but eventually college was awarded \$20.7 million, which is now being distributed for students (50% of the total amount). Mike Sitte, Director of Academic Budget and Operations, is gathering recommendations from college stakeholders on how to use the remaining institutional portion of the funds.

c. Federal

President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan into law on March 11. The law is the fourth round of COVID-related legislation with a price tag of \$1.9 trillion of which \$39.6 is earmarked for higher education.

The Dream and Promise Act was passed by the House of Representatives by a bipartisan vote earlier this month. The bill provides a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and Dreamers. The measure is now being considered by the US Senate.

E. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. in the Board Room M210 or via Zoom (to be announced via email to members and via open meetings post).

F. ADJOURNEMENT

Janice moved, Bohdan seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 p.m.