

DRAFT

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY MINUTES

Friday, April 22, 2016

2:45 pm – 4:15 pm

Concourse Hotel

Madison, Wisconsin

The Legislative Committee of the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association was called to order by Legislative Co-Chairperson Robert Beaver (Mid-State), at 2:45 pm on Friday, April 22, 2016, at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin.

Other Legislative Committee members present included: Russell Ratch (Chippewa Valley), Colleen Bates (Chippewa Valley), Dominick Madison (Fox Valley), Gary Olsen (Gateway), Roger Zacharias (Gateway), Brian Diel (Nicolet), Eileen Nickels (Southwest), Pauline Jaske (Waukesha), Andrew Bosshard (Western), David Laehn (Western) and James Beistle (WI Indianhead).

Also in attendance: Sue Budjac (President, Mid-State), Nancy Merrill (WTCS) and Layla Merrifield (Executive Director, District Boards Association).

Approval of Committee Minutes

The first order of business was approval of the minutes of the January 15, 2016 meeting. Moved by James Beistle (WI Indianhead), second by Roger Zacharias (Gateway). Motion carried.

State Issues – Layla Merrifield

A. College Affordability Package Update

Layla said that following an intense lobbying push by the advocacy team; the College Affordability Package was passed, including our top two priorities:

- **AB 740/SB 540 (Now Act 281)** – \$500,000 (permanent) annual increase for Wisconsin Grants for technical college students
- **AB 741/SB 592 (Now Act 282)** – \$320,000 annually for emergency financial assistance grants for technical college students

There is some concern that democrats and republicans were split on the vote. This bill package is good for the System, providing much-needed additional funding.

Brian Diel (Nicolet) asked how the Milwaukee Promise program is going. Layla said that there has been good response from high school students applying for the program. MATC is still fundraising to support the cost.

B. Other Bills of Interest to Technical Colleges

Layla talked briefly about another bill affecting Wisconsin technical colleges:

- **SB 511 (Now Act 208)** – Allows colleges in the WTCS to teach classes to students in other states, without the large fees that were proposed

Representative Kulp's Speaker's Taskforce on Youth Workforce Readiness:

- The Speaker's Taskforce met on two campuses
- Presidents' Association has been working on this topic as well
- Apprenticeship was an issue that was discussed

Layla said that the WTCS Budget Development Workgroup will meet on May 3. Both Layla and Mona will participate.

Federal Issues Update – Nancy Merrill

Nancy Merrill from WTCS led a discussion on several federal issues, including:

Both the Higher Education Act (HEA) and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins) have received some attention from Congress; it seems unlikely either will move forward in 2016. The Obama administration, however, is urging Congress to reauthorize Perkins this year.

The Administration's current Perkins priorities include:

- Aligning labor market needs with high-quality CTE programs;
- More accountability achieved through an emphasis on student academic and employment outcomes;
- Greater collaboration among K12 and higher education, employers and industry; and
- Incentives for CTE innovation and replication of successful innovations.

WTCS will be closely reviewing any potential legislation or policy/issue papers to ensure that actual language does not have negative or unanticipated consequences.

Nancy also talked about a study that the American Association of Community Colleges (AACCC) did on applying for financial aid.

The American Association of Community Colleges surveyed a sample of its member institutions about factors affecting the rate at which students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA).

The most common reason cited for not completing the FASFA is that students are unaware of this requirement (83% of respondents) followed closely by immigration related issues (77%). Sixty-seven percent of respondents cited both that parents were unwilling to provide information and that the FASFA form is too complicated.

The respondents “overwhelmingly” indicated they have increased outreach about FAFSA completion, at both the high school and college level.

High school examples include financial aid workshops for high school juniors and seniors, advertising in high schools and partnering with K12 school districts to provide information about FAFSA, financial literacy and student aid.

At college level, outreach includes FAFSA labs with filing assistance, email reminders to students, language translation assistance and extended financial aid counseling.

The survey results are consistent with discussion in Congress about the need to streamline and simplify FAFSA completion. The WTCS will continue monitoring federal proposals to ensure the proposed changes are helpful to students and reasonable to implement.

Agenda Topic Ideas for July 2016 and October 2016 Committee Meetings

The committee would like to discuss the budget at the July meeting.

Other Business

None.

The next meeting of the Legislative Committee will be held on Friday, July 15, 2016 in Wausau.

There being no other business, the Legislative committee meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm on a motion by James Beistle (WI Indianhead), second by Andrew Bosshard (Western). Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:
Robert Beaver (Mid-State), Committee Co-Chair and Recording Secretary