

**LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2024 | 9:00 AM**

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

- A. The regular quarterly meeting of the Legislative Task Force was held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 via Zoom video conferencing and called to order by Laura Bray at 9:01 a.m.
- B. Roll Call:
 - 1. **Members Present:** Laura Bray, Erich Zeimantz, Roxanne Christian, Dr. Anthony Cruz, Mary Peters-Wojnowiak, Tony Tagliavia, Carol Voss, Denise Treuer, Sherry Terrell-Webb, Darryll Fortune, and Cheryl Fatla
 - 2. **Guests:** Ramie Zelenkova of Hubbard, Wilson, & Zelenkova, LLC
 - 3. **Members Excused:** Stephanie Townsend, William Smith, Equan Burrows, D. Patricia Torres Najera, Tequila Burris, and Steve Shea

II. COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS LAW

- A. The Legislative Task Force meeting was confirmed by Denise Treuer to be in compliance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 24, 2024 MEETING

- A. The July 24, 2024 minutes were brought forward for approval ([1A: Minutes](#))

MOTION: Sherry Terrell-Webb moved to approve the minutes; Tony Tagliavia seconded the motion.

ACTION: There were no objections, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Legislative Updates ([2A: Updates](#))
 - 1. Federal
 - a) Appropriations Bill: Laura Bray provided an overview of the current status of the Federal Appropriations Bill. The Bill remains pending due to the ongoing election cycle, and significant movement is not expected until after the election results are finalized. This delay impacts funding decisions, but once the election is settled, the timeline for passing the Bill will become clearer.
 - b) Scholarships for Student Parents: Senator Tammy Baldwin is actively advancing legislation that includes a scholarship program specifically targeted for student parents. This is a critical piece of funding that MATC is closely monitoring, as it would offer financial relief to students who are also parents, helping them manage educational costs while raising children.
 - c) Environmental and Transportation Funding: MATC is keeping a close eye on potential funding opportunities from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). These funds are connected to broader infrastructure initiatives, and Bray mentioned that part of President Biden's announcement later that day could include details on these projects. The announcement relates to Milwaukee's involvement in projects that may receive federal support, which could benefit the college indirectly.

- d) Water Technology and Milwaukee Water Council Projects: MATC is involved in regional initiatives led by the Milwaukee Water Council focused on water technology and water quality. This initiative is regionally significant, extending to areas outside Milwaukee, including parts of Chicago. The funding and support for these projects align with the college's strategic interests in sustainability and advanced water technology, sectors that are receiving heightened federal attention.

2. State

- a) 2025-2027 Biennial Budget Process: Ramie Zelenkova discussed the beginning of the state's biennial budget process. All state agencies, including the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS), the University of Wisconsin (UW) system, and other key agencies (like health services and corrections), submitted their budget requests to the Department of Administration in September 2024. These requests are mainly "cost-to-continue" budgets, meaning they focus on maintaining current funding levels without significant new expenditures.
- b) Governor's Budget Proposal: Governor Tony Evers, along with his administrative team, is now reviewing these requests and will craft the Governor's budget proposal, which will be presented to the legislature in February 2025. This proposal will determine how much funding will be allocated to key sectors, including technical colleges like MATC. The Governor's recommendations may also include earmarks for specific programs, such as childcare support, housing initiatives, and dual enrollment programs, which are crucial for MATC's development.
- c) This is a critical time for the college to engage in internal discussions and determine whether it will pursue specific requests or earmarks for new funding from the state. MATC will work closely with the WTCS and District Boards Association to align its priorities with the larger system's needs.
- d) Legislative Control: Zelenkova commented on the political landscape in Wisconsin, projecting that Republicans will likely retain control of both the State Senate and the Assembly in the upcoming election. However, the margins may be narrower than in previous years, which could impact how these chambers negotiate the state budget and other legislative priorities. While a shift in control of one chamber is possible, it would require a significant electoral shift. Narrower margins could affect the ability of the Republican majority to pass legislation smoothly, requiring more bipartisan cooperation.
- e) MATC-Specific Projects: With the budget process underway, MATC has the opportunity to propose specific earmarks for the college, particularly in areas like workforce development, student services, and technical education programs. Now is the time for the college to finalize its priorities and prepare to advocate for state funding to support these initiatives.

3. Local

- a) Regulation of For-Profit Institutions: There is ongoing discussion at the local level about regulating for-profit institutions of higher education in Milwaukee. A recent zoning decision allowed the Arizona College of Nursing to open in Milwaukee, despite opposition from some local groups. This has sparked interest among local elected officials in pursuing state legislation that would give Milwaukee more authority to regulate or prohibit for-profit educational institutions within its borders. This legislation, if passed, could set a precedent for how other cities in Wisconsin manage for-profit colleges.
- b) Wisconsin Legislative Council Study Committee on the UW System: The Wisconsin Legislative Council is currently conducting a study on the future of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System. While the focus is primarily on the UW system, the MATC

team is keeping a close watch on any developments that might affect the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS). There could be potential shifts in funding or policy that impact technical colleges, particularly as it relates to the integration of two-year colleges or changes in the state's higher education funding structure. MATC will continue to collaborate with the WTCS and other stakeholders to ensure its interests are represented in these discussions.

B. Legislative Outreach

1. Presidential Roundtables: Dr. Anthony Cruz will host several roundtables to engage external partners, which will help inform MATC's strategic plan. The focus is on fostering connections with K-12, higher education, faith-based organizations, and other stakeholders. ([3A: Roundtables](#))
2. Legislative Breakfast Plan: A legislative breakfast is being planned for early 2025, with invites extended to elected officials.
3. Legislative Advocacy Day: The Wisconsin Student Government Legislative Seminar, where students advocate at the state level, will be held February 16-18, 2025 in Madison, Wisconsin.
4. ACCT Capitol Hill Day: Scheduled for February 9-12, 2025, in Washington, D.C.

V. **FUTURE MEETING DATES/TIMES**

- A. Tuesday, January 14, 2025/9:00 a.m.
- B. Tuesday, April 8, 2025/9:00 a.m.

II. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: It was moved by Carol Voss to adjourn the meeting; Tony Tagliavia seconded the motion.

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Bray