

MINUTES OF MEETING
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD
MAY 9, 2017
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM
4622 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, MCCARTHY BOARD ROOM
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53705

Tuesday, May 9, 2017

Members Present: Phil Baranowski, Lisa Erickson, Tony Evers, Hunter Kautz, Becky Levzow, W. Kent Lorenz, Terry McGowan, John Schwantes, Kelly Tourdot, S. Mark Tyler, Georgia Maxwell for Ray Allen, Stephen Willett, Mary Williams.

System Office Staff Present: Kathy Cullen, Morna Foy, Emily Gleason, Tracey Isensee, Nancy Merrill, Carrie Morgan, Amanda Pardo, Jason Ring, Dan Scanlon, Conor Smyth, Miles Stoffel, Angie White, James Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Susan May, Fox Valley Technical College; Debbie Davidson, Gateway Technical College; Mike Lanser, Lakeshore Technical College; Jack Daniels, Mark Thomas, Madison Area Technical College; Sue Budjac, Mid-State Technical College; Vernon Jung, Moraine Park Technical College; Richard Nelson, Nicolet Area Technical College; Lori Weyers, Northcentral Technical College; Chris Dahlke, Chet Lamers, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Ed Lukasek, Lee Rasch, Western Technical College; John Will, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Department of Public Instruction; Mike Gawel, Wisconsin Student Government.

Board President Schwantes called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Emily Gleason read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

ITEM A: Approval of the March 21-22, 2017, Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Baranowski, seconded by Board Member Willett that the March 21-22, 2017, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM B: Report of the Board President

Board President Schwantes reported that he attended President Trump's address on April 18 at Snap-on Incorporated in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The address focused on manufacturing and technical training. In April, Board President Schwantes attended the District Boards Association's banquet at its spring meeting.

The Wisconsin Student Government elected officers for 2017-18 at their April meeting. Board President Schwantes introduced New President Michael Gawel, a student at Fox Valley Technical College, enrolled in the Accounting and Banking and Financial Services programs.

Board Member Kautz's confirmation was recommended by the Senate Committee on Universities and Technical Colleges and Governor Walker has reappointed Board Members Willett and Schwantes to a second term ending in 2023. Board Member Willett recognized Board Member Evers's reelection as Wisconsin State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

At today's session, the Board will take action on annual district board appointments and 2017-18 tuition. The Board will also receive an overview of the 2016 *Graduate Outcomes* report.

ITEM C: Report of the System President

System President Foy highlighted the annual State Ambassador Banquet which showcased 16 new ambassadors in April. Board Member Williams attended and shared that the banquet was heart-warming and one of the best events she has attended in years. President Foy invited Board Members to attend next year's banquet on April 18, 2018.

President Foy shared a press release announcing a Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation \$1.3 million grant to establish a WTCS Student Success Center in Wisconsin. WTCS joins 13 other states in a network for which Jobs for the Future (JFF), a national think-tank philanthropic group, provides technical assistance to advance and accelerate student success efforts. The grant will help scale proven, high-impact strategies at the technical colleges. The effort will kick off with a WTCS Student Success Summit in July.

President Foy joined the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Governor Walker and other state officials on April 25, to announce \$500,000 in Fab Lab Grants from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to twenty-one Wisconsin middle or high schools. The grants will help create opportunities to expose students to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Design, Math). Board Member Evers stated it is a great opportunity for smaller schools.

President Foy spoke at the SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference in Madison in April. The event hosted over 1,800 student competitors and eight technical colleges were represented, including Board Member Kautz with a team from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College.

President Foy noted that five of the 15 Presidential Scholar Semifinalists from Wisconsin are enrolled in Career and Technical Education (CTE) and earned dual credit in high school.

President Foy shared copies of 2017 *WisconsinBiz*, an annual site-selection publication for economic development agencies and others; a newsletter from Lt. Governor Kleefisch highlighting Ag Day at Western Technical College in March; and a resolution by the Polk County Board of Supervisors supporting legislation to expand technical college educational programs and services to underserved counties.

In addition, President Foy highlighted an article from *Inside Higher Ed*, emphasizing that while CTE enjoys a high profile, it still suffers from a poor image that has been an area of focus for the Board. Progress had been made, including a redesigned web presence and publications and high impact events; however, there is still work to be done. The article also highlights that a gender gap in high paying CTE fields persists.

President Foy recognized retiring presidents Sue Budjac, Mike Lanser and Lee Rasch.

ITEM D: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association Executive Director Layla Merrifield and Association Secretary/Treasurer Vernon Jung updated the Board on recent Association activities. The spring meeting was held at Lakeshore Technical College and included officer elections and an in-service on succession planning and leadership development. New officers are President Carla Hedtke, Vice President Vernon Jung, Secretary/Treasurer Betty Bruski Mallek and Past President Mona Mathews. Hannah Anderson received the 2017 Media Award for her report, *Making the Culinary Cut*.

The summer meeting will take place at Gateway Technical College in July and feature an in-service on boardsmanship, tours highlighting Gateway's partnership with Kenall Manufacturing and a new trustee orientation session.

ITEM E: WTCS Presidents' Association

Association President and President of Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College John Will provided the Board with an update on recent activities. Advocacy remains an area of focus during legislative budget deliberations. The Skill and Talent Committee is looking at best practices from Promise programs that launched in fall 2016, while the Innovation Committee will host a philanthropy seminar for WTCS leadership in June.

President Will reported that this is his last report as Association President. The 2017-18 President will be Dr. Jack Daniels, President of Madison Area Technical College.

Board Vice President Tyler stated that the collaborations and joint advocacy efforts of the Presidents' Association have made a tremendous impact. Mr. Tyler also reported that he recently joined a trade mission to China and learned there is interest in bringing Chinese students to Wisconsin. President Foy stated that a couple of technical colleges have a relationship with China.

ITEM F: Consent Agenda

WTCS Senior Policy Advisor Nancy Merrill summarized the District Board appointment process.

Board President Schwantes noted a correction on page 18, the Fox Valley Technical College request to remodel facilities in Oshkosh. The project will be funded with operational funds, not district borrowing.

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Baranowski that the Board approve the program development, facilities requests and annual district board appointments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM G: Teaching and Learning – Graduate Outcomes

WTCS Strategic Advancement Director Conor Smyth provided an overview of the 2016 WTCS *Graduate Outcomes* report. WTCS surveyed more than 25,000 2016 graduates, with 66 percent responding. Of those who responded and were in the labor force, 93 percent indicated they were employed within six months of graduation, including 79 percent who reported employment in a

field related to their technical college program. The median starting salary for students with a two-year diploma is \$37,849.

The Report also highlights that 16 percent of graduates are minorities, exceeding the proportion for Wisconsin's population as a whole – less than 13 percent. Board Member Willett stressed the importance of including the minority population in efforts to address the state's skills gap.

Mr. Smyth stated that the report is available to students so they can make informed decisions. Board Member Williams stated that she shares the annual report at her business and has seen a positive shift in the image of technical education.

ITEM H: 2017-18 Tuition

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra provided the Board with an overview of the System's tuition-setting process and historical trends. The Board typically sets tuition each March, but due to a proposed tuition freeze and other changes in the Biennial Budget, the Board delayed action until this meeting.

The System Board is required by statute to annually set uniform tuition charges for the subsequent academic year. A tuition working group – consisting of System Board members Baranowski, Kautz, Levzow and Tyler – was established to provide System Office staff guidance for making a recommendation to the System President regarding tuition. The working group recommended a 1.4 percent increase in tuition for both occupational programs and Collegiate Transfer to President Foy. Mr. Zylstra asked working group members to comment.

Board Member Baranowski thanked System staff for providing valuable information. Board Member Levzow stated she was impressed by the data and information provided, including, feedback from students and college presidents. Board Member Tyler stated that the Board has been conscientious in maintaining affordable tuition.

President Foy noted that the Board's action is to allow the technical colleges to plan, and emphasized that formal tuition-setting will be contingent upon ongoing Biennial Budget deliberations.

It was moved by Board Member Baranowski, seconded by Board Member Willett that, contingent upon the outcome of the tuition provision of the 2017-19 biennial budget, the board approve the per credit tuition rates for 2017-18 beginning with the fall semester as follows:

Postsecondary/Vocational Adult	\$132.20 per credit
Postsecondary/Vocational Adult non-resident addition	\$ 66.10 per credit
Collegiate Transfer	\$178.80 per credit
Collegiate Transfer non-resident addition	\$ 89.40 per credit

Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM I: Legislative Update

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra and Ms. Merrifield updated the Board on legislative activities affecting the System. President Foy testified on the Biennial Budget at a March 8 Joint Committee on Finance hearing.

The budget includes a 30 percent cap on Outcomes-Based Funding, \$5 million in additional State Aid in each year and \$1.9 million over the biennium for Wisconsin Grants. Joint Finance removed non-fiscal policy items from the budget, including differential tuition, the consolidation within DOA of IT services, additional reporting requirements and expanded credit transfer with UW System institutions.

Of concern, the proposal continues to include significant changes to the WTCS Outcomes-Based Funding formula, a tuition freeze and changes to dual enrollment programs, which directly affect the technical colleges. President Foy and Ms. Merrifield continue to meet with legislators to discuss these provisions.

Mr. Zylstra recently testified at an Assembly Committee on Colleges and Universities informational hearing on Outcomes-Based Funding in Higher Education. Invited speakers included HCM Strategist Martha Snyder, UW System President Ray Cross and UW-Madison Associate Professor Nick Hillman.

WTCS Senior Policy Advisor Nancy Merrill provided a federal update.

ITEM J: Announcements/Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is July 11-12, 2017, at Nicolet Area Technical College in Rhinelander.

It was moved by Board Member Baranowski, seconded by Board Member Lorenz, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Gleason
Recording Secretary