

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM BOARD**  
**MARCH 19-20, 2013**  
**CHIPPEWA VALLEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE**  
**MANUFACTURING EDUCATION CENTER**  
**2320 ALPINE ROAD**  
**EAU CLAIRE, WI 54701**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2013 – 4:30 pm**

Members Present: Phil Baranowski, Natalie Cruz, Stan Davis, Sharon Wendt for Tony Evers, Becky Levzow, Jonathan Barry for Reggie Newson, Drew Petersen, John Schwantes, S. Mark Tyler and Stephen Willett

Members Absent: Phil Neuenfeldt, Mary Quinnette Cuene, and José Vásquez

System Office Staff Present: Kathy Cullen, Morna Foy, Kelly Gallagher, Carol Lynch, Dan Scanlon, Annette Severson, Conor Smyth, and Jim Zylstra

District/Others Present: Pat Costello and Paul Gabriel, District Boards Association; Mark Short, Wisconsin Student Government; Leigh Barker, UTCC/WEAC; Bruce Barker, Candy Johnson, Thomas Lange, Doug Olson, Tom Huffcutt, Mona Mathews, Margo Keys, Aliasha Crowe, and Roger Stanford, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Keith Cornille, Madison Area Technical College; Sheila Ruhland, Moraine Park Technical College; R. Jeffrey Rafn, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Libby Burmaster, Nicolet Area Technical College; and Lori Weyers and Laurie Borowicz, Northcentral Technical College.

Board President Tyler called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Carol Lynch read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that there was a quorum present.

**It was moved by Board member Baranowski, seconded by Board member Wendt, that the January 29, 2013, Board minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM A: Report of the Board President**

Board President Tyler introduced new Board member Stephen Willett. Mr. Willett is an attorney who resides in Phillips, Wisconsin. Mr. Willett indicated that he is very interested in the economy and is honored to serve on the WTCS Board.

Board President Tyler noted that a copy of the UW-Regents report could be found in the Board folders. He recognized Board member Evers for inviting him to visit northwest Wisconsin high schools to highlight Career and Technical Education opportunities and promote

the “Gold Collar Careers” initiative. Another facet of that initiative was the development of coloring books to increase awareness of manufacturing careers among young people.

Board President Tyler noted that WTCS President Foy was delayed traveling from Boston and would deliver her report when she arrived.

### **ITEM C: WTC District Boards Association Report**

Pat Costello, trustee at Mid-State Technical College and President of the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (DBA) welcomed Stephen Willett to the board and gave an overview of the DBA’s purpose and mission. He reported that the Association completed their federal legislative visits in February and expressed appreciation for the support of System Office staff and Executive Director Paul Gabriel in preparation for those visits.

Chippewa Valley Technical College trustee Mona Mathews reported that the next district board meeting will be held in April in Eau Claire and student success would be a major topic of the meeting. Noah Brown, president and CEO of the national Association of Community College Trustees, will provide a keynote address and the group will consider how data have been used to promote student success. She thanked the Board for meeting at the colleges and reminded Board members that they are always welcome to attend DBA meetings.

Executive Director Paul Gabriel explained the governance structure of the Association and opened the discussion to questions and comments, receiving none.

### **ITEM D: WTC Presidents’ Association Report**

Dr. Jeff Rafn, president of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and of the WTCS Presidents’ Association reported that the presidents and DBA are exploring developing a health insurance cooperative. Even if current health plans did not change, Gallagher and Associates predicts a savings of up to 3% could be recognized. Dr. Rafn estimated that if successfully established, the cooperative would take effect in July 2014.

Board members discussed whether each college would maintain their own healthcare networks, how many healthcare plans are currently self-funded, and whether districts are putting health care staff on-site like some private industries are doing. Dr. Rafn explained that as far as he understands, each district would have their own healthcare plans and over time the plans could become more the same, using best practices. He did not know how many healthcare plans are currently self-funded and he indicated that NWTC does not have healthcare staff on-site.

The Governor’s budget includes a provision expanding the potential for the colleges to authorize charter schools. The colleges have serious concerns about doing so and are taking no position. Overall, the presidents are pleased with the Governor’s budget, including changes to the property tax levy authority. The Association hopes to work with System Office staff in developing a performance measurement framework, and agrees with a more flexible approach to distributing categorical funds. The presidents are pleased with the passage of Wisconsin Fast Forward grant

funding, and DWD Secretary Reggie Newson will attend the April Presidents' Association meeting to discuss that and other shared priorities.

Dr. Rafn thanked Jim Zylstra, WTCS Executive Vice President, for his work on the Presidents' Association Process Improvement committee. The committee has completed the work it set out to accomplish for the current year.

Dr. Rafn noted an IRS issue related to the definition of "part-time" employees, which is of considerable interest to the colleges because of the use of adjunct faculty. The presidents are urging adoption of a definition currently used by the College and University Professional Association (CUPA) for Human Resources.

Dr. Rafn reported that the colleges will highlight dual credit for high school students during "Dual Credit Day" on April 30, including an event at MPTC featuring WTCS President Foy and State Superintendent Evers. Dr. Rafn explained that the dual enrollment credit discussion takes place with the K-12 schools and the level of the courses is determined by the district. President Rafn pointed out that currently, K-12 students do not pay tuition for these credits and K-12 schools cover the cost of text books. It is a significant commitment, but all of the districts are offering dual credits.

Board member Willett asked about a provision in the Governor's budget requiring a block of 30 credits that will transfer between the UW and technical colleges. WTCS Provost Kathy Cullen explained that the System Office is in the beginning stages of working together with the UW system, considering several ways to develop the block. The technical colleges currently have 15 credits in the general education area that transfer to UW. Board members discussed that it will be important for students to know which courses are eligible to transfer.

Board members discussed the manufacturing career pathway model. Board President Tyler indicated that engaging youth in employment experience is a key part of the model. A benefit to the college is that these students come focused and prepared to begin their programs. He also noted that UW charges districts for providing dual credit, unlike the technical colleges, creating a favorable opportunity for recruiting new students to the technical colleges.

### **ITEM E: Teaching and Learning: Student Success**

WTCS Director of Strategic Partnerships and External Relations Conor Smyth noted that today's presentation highlights the efforts of System stakeholders to advance a common framework for defining student success. He introduced to the Board a four-member panel: Dr. Lori Weyers, President of Northcentral Technical College; Dr. Laurie Borowicz, VP of Students Services at Northcentral Technical College; Dr. Keith Cornille, VP of Student Development at Madison Area Technical College; and Margo Keys, VP of Student Services at Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC).

Dr. Weyers explained that the Student Services Administrators (SSAs) group was charged with establishing a common definition of student success. The group identified common student success terms and measures. This discussion was considered critical given the

development of a performance-based funding structure. Dr. Weyers noted that Wisconsin is a leader in considering and monitoring student performance and has quality data systems with which to move forward. She thanked the group for its work.

Dr. Cornille reported that the group considered how to align its definition with other work going on around the state, including the WTCS Board's strategic plan. The group conducted a self-assessment, looked at the work currently being done at the districts and also looked at best practices. They determined that the definition needed to be concise and flexible.

Dr. Borowicz indicated that the work of this group has truly been a collaborative effort and SSAs sought input from a wide variety of stakeholders and groups. They developed five measures of performance that aligned with the WTCS Board Strategic Directions. The group believed it was important to consider more than "first-time, full-time" students, the group historically measured for success.

For example, Mr. Smyth is leading a collaborative effort to expand the definition of completion to include certificates, rather than focusing solely on associate degree and technical diploma completers. The WTCS Graduate Follow-up and Employer Follow-up reports provide useful data, and Unemployment Insurance wage data may provide a supplement to these efforts. Currently all of the data is collected at the System Office and the goal is to not require costly new data collection.

Board members discussed current methods for collecting Graduate Follow-up and Employer Follow-up data and current response rates for the surveys. Board member Levzow asked how the WTCS process of collecting this data compares with what the UW does. Board President Tyler indicated that the UW does not currently collect these data.

Board members discussed the extensive efforts of the colleges to collect and analyze student data and the impressive results, while allowing that continuous improvement is possible. Board member Barry noted that WTCS has a strong history of tracking student outcomes, but that states like Mississippi link students' social security numbers with labor market information to monitor employment outcomes. WTCS students are not required to report social security numbers, which would complicate this approach in Wisconsin. Ms. Cullen noted that the WTCS Longitudinal Data System project is close to completion, and the goal is that the system will be linked to job market data.

Board members asked a series of questions, including how many graduates donate to their colleges, how many businesses donate to district board foundations, and whether colleges keep track of technical college students who transfer and complete a four-year degree. The colleges differ from four-year institutions in terms of a history of establishing connections to graduates, and work remains to improve these connections. In terms of transfer, Ms. Cullen noted that receiving institutions hold the data regarding which students transfer and complete degrees, creating an additional challenge.

Ms. Keys discussed how CVTC is looking at student success as it relates to employment and the local workforce needs. Historically, students have had to take the initiative to seek out

support services. CVTC has used a federal grant to fund the transition to a more “intrusive” model, under which the college identifies at-risk students early in the enrollment process and provides support services much more proactively. Ms. Keys stressed that providing this level of support is very costly and is made possible with the federal grant. She also noted that it is data-based, and early returns are positive in terms of the demonstrable difference in student success.

Board member Baranowski asked if part-time students are eligible for these services. Ms. Keys responded that all students are eligible and CVTC also tries to offer the programs on-line to reach the maximum number of students. Wendt asked if advisors were reaching out to parents for support. Ms. Keys noted that just 25 percent of CVTC students come directly from high school, while 75 percent are independent, non-traditional students.

Board President Tyler thanked the panel.

### **Item F: Chippewa Valley Technical College Presentation**

Mr. Bruce Barker, Chippewa Valley Technical College President, gave an overview of the development and operation of the college’s Manufacturing Education Center and highlighted the many programs available there. Mr. Barker invited Board members to participate in a tour of the Manufacturing Education Center Wednesday morning.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

### **Wednesday, March 20, 2013 – 8:30 am**

Members Present: Phil Baranowski, Natalie Cruz, Sharon Wendt for Tony Evers, Becky Lezvow, Jonathan Barry for Reggie Newson, Drew Petersen, John Schwantes, S. Mark Tyler and Stephen Willett

Members Absent: Stan Davis, Phil Neuenfeldt, Mary Quinnette Cuene, and José Vásquez

System Office Staff Present: Kathy Cullen, Morna Foy, Kelly Gallagher, Carol Lynch, Nancy Merrill, Sarah Kavanaugh, Dan Scanlon, Annette Severson, Conor Smyth, and Jim Zylstra

District/Others Present: Pat Costello and Paul Gabriel, District Boards Association; Mark Short, Wisconsin Student Government; Jean Kapinsky, Northcentral Technical College and WTCS State Certification Committee; Leigh Barker, UTCC/WEAC; Renea Ranguette, Blackhawk Technical College, Bruce Barker, Candy Johnson, Shawn Emberts, Tam Burgau, Margo Keys, Aliesha Crowe, Lisa Vanasse, Tom Huffcutt, Jon Brutlas, and Roger Stanford, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Bryan Albrecht and Bill Whyte, Gateway Technical College; Keith Cornille and Aaron Burkes, Madison Area Technical College; R. Jeffrey Rafn, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Libby Burmaster, Nicolet Area Technical College; Rob Elliott, Northcentral Technical College; and Lee Rasch, Western Technical College.

Board members toured Chippewa Valley Technical College’s Manufacturing Education Center at 8:30 a.m.

Board President Tyler called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m.

Carol Lynch read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that there was a quorum present.

### **ITEM B: Report of the System President**

WTCS President Morna Foy congratulated Board President Mark Tyler and his OEM Fabricators team for receiving the 2012 Workforce Development Grand Award and 2012 Manufacturer of the Year Award.

President Foy recognized the state and national leadership of WTCS Education Directors: Sandy Schmit and Amy Charles delivered the first-ever Cross-Functional Deans and Career Pathways meetings last month; Ann Westrich is coordinated the Systemwide “Dual Credit Day” celebration on April 30, with a special event featuring President Foy and State Superintendent Evers in the Moraine Park District; Mark Johnson, Karen Showers and Sandy Schmit presented Wisconsin’s internationally-recognized career pathways approach to the Ontario Community College System; and Moira Lafayette and Sandy Schmit will present the WTCS Technical Skill Attainment approach at an upcoming meeting of the Higher Learning Commission.

President Foy highlighted several of her recent appearances, including representing the System at a national “Pathways to Prosperity” conference held at Harvard University.

### **ITEM H: 2013-14 General Purpose Revenue, Carl D. Perkins Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and Indian Gaming Receipts Projects**

WTCS Director of Strategic Partnerships and External Relations, Conor Smyth explained that the context of his presentation is that developing and maintaining rigorous and relevant programs is costly. As a result, it’s important to recognize the colleges’ efforts in blending funding sources – including the grant funds being approved today – to accomplish this work.

The Board communicates its priorities at several points in the grants process, including the development of long-range plans for the expenditure of federal Perkins and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) funds, and detailed grant guidelines for state funds, which the Board approved in September 2012.

Mr. Smyth reported that all the grant funding recommendations reflect the strategic priorities of the Board as outlined in the long-range plans and grant guidelines. Grant funds will be used for curriculum development, capacity expansions, student success initiatives, and other measures to address the state’s skills gap. Goals of the funding categories were made clear to applicants, and the review of applications was objective and supported by third-party experts.

Board discussion included whether these grant programs help prepare disadvantaged students to enter into instructional programs. Mr. Smyth reported that as a primary focus of the federal AEFLA grant funding, as well as several state-funded grant categories. Board member Willett noted, and Mr. Smyth confirmed, that an increasing proportion of WTCS students are

academically and financially disadvantaged. Board President Tyler noted the perception is that there are a lot of students who need remediation. Mr. Smyth replied that most students who need remediation are not coming directly out of high school, but are returning adult students who need to brush up on basic skills.

Board President Tyler requested clarification of the grant categories subject to the Governor's budget proposal to combine state categorical aids into a single appropriation.

**It was moved by Board member Baranowski, seconded by Board member Schwantes, that the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves the FY 2013-14 General Purpose Revenue, Carl D. Perkins Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and Indian Gaming Receipts projects as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ITEM I: Efficiency Measures – Personnel Certification**

Provost and Vice President of Student Success Kathy Cullen outlined the current personnel certification process. The Presidents' Association Process Improvement (PAPI) Committee initially reviewed the process to look for efficiencies and concluded that the recommended changes would create a more efficient process for both the colleges and the System, while maintaining a high quality faculty. The proposed changes would require revision of Chapter TCS 3 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

The System Board will establish minimum faculty qualifications and System Office staff will conduct reviews to ensure districts quality assurance systems adhere to these standards. In addition, System Office staff will work with district staff to provide technical assistance, identify best practices, and provide ongoing professional development opportunities for college faculty.

Board member Petersen asked if districts would involve faculty in preparing the "onboarding" piece, which they will. Faculty coursework will be reviewed and there will be continue to be a commitment to professional development. The question was asked whether Faculty Development grant funds support professional development. Currently, the grants support expanded use of instructional technology. President Foy noted that the professional development piece was important because it exemplifies the leadership the System Office would like to provide for this process. It can be expensive to support professional development initiatives, but with additional resources, it reduces the financial burden and provides uniformity.

Board member Petersen stated he sometimes hears criticism that the colleges are slow to respond to business needs and this process could move faculty to "readiness" more quickly.

Ms. Cullen explained that Deans, in collaboration with college presidents, will make the decisions as to who are the best faculty to teach individual programs and courses. Dr. Rafn stated that new faculty skill sets were needed for new programs, such as the shipbuilding. Ms. Cullen believes the colleges do a great job of selecting and maintaining quality instructors.

Board President Tyler asked how long it would take to revise the administrative code. Ms. Cullen anticipates the process would take approximately nine months. The language in the

code needs to be streamlined and clarified and there is also a data piece related to this revision. President Foy reminded the Board that this change will also require approval from the Governor's Office, and the entire process could take up to two years to implement. Board President Tyler thanked the PAPI Committee for working on this initiative.

**It was moved by Board member Willett, seconded by Board member Baranowski, that the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves System Office staff amending Chapter TCS 3 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code to implement a more flexible and effective system that ensures colleges hire high quality faculty who will be supported by ongoing professional development. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ITEM J: 2013-14 Tuition Recommendation**

WTCS Senior Policy Advisor and Federal Relations Officer, Nancy Merrill, outlined the process used to make the tuition recommendation before the Board. Board members Tyler, Cruz, Petersen and Baranowski served on the WTCS Tuition Working Group.

Board member Willett asked how the WTCS tuition increase compared with the UW-System. Ms. Merrill explained that the percentage increases are almost identical. The difference is that UW-System uses a tuition rate whereby students enrolled in 12 to 18 credits are considered full-time and are charged a flat rate, while WTCS charges a per credit fee.

Board member Levzow asked why the tuition increases were double digit numbers in some years. President Foy explained that the colleges are required to recover a minimum of costs through tuition. The Board decided that they needed to revisit tuition in part because the legislature was studying technical college system funding and pushing to create a different funding balance between property taxes, state funds, and tuition revenues. The first time the Board advisory group met to address tuition, it increased 15%, while UW-System's tuition went up approximately 18%. Since then, the Board has maintained the workgroup process, rather than using a formula calculation to determine tuition rates.

Ms. Merrill shared graphs showing tuition rate history of the Technical College System and UW-System, explaining that the colleges are asked for their recommendation regarding tuition rates. During the process, the colleges expressed concerns about the impact on students of raising tuition. Ms. Merrill explained that the sample student budgets considered by the Working Group are put together by experts in the districts. These budgets help the Group to understand the overall impact on students of a tuition increase.

Ms. Merrill reported the recommended tuition increase is 4.5% for both collegiate transfer and postsecondary occupational programs, and she outlined the total dollar impact on a full-time student. Board member Willett commented that UW-La Crosse students recently approached faculty members and asked for a tuition increase to maintain the labs and more expensive programs at the college. He asked if Technical College students could do the same. President Foy explained that technical college students can certainly come forward at any time to make recommendations such as a tuition increase, but state statutes require the Board to set consistent tuition for instruction type (collegiate transfer and postsecondary occupational), and

not for individual programs. Board President Tyler commented that going to a differential tuition model could be problematic for a variety of reasons and could exclude certain students.

President Foy remarked that a lot of states follow a high tuition and high financial aid model. Wisconsin has done a good job of limiting tuition increases.

Board member Baranowski stated that while he supports the recommended tuition increase, he believes the Board may need to reconsider the balance of funding sources. He expressed concern that it's not possible to determine the number of students who don't attend college because of the cost, and believes that financial aid applications should be simplified.

Tuition Working Group members reported that they considered all the factors of a tuition increase and compromised to arrive at a recommendation. Board member Willett stated that Senator Erpenbach has been very aggressive about pursuing how we can partner with business and industry to help fund tuition and focusing on training workers for the jobs that businesses need. Board member Petersen commented that Senator Erpenbach may not be aware of the many partnerships that currently exist between the colleges and businesses. President Foy commented that the colleges receive support from industry that may not be visible to all. The colleges' foundations are placing a greater emphasis on financial aid and grants. Board member Willett noted that that this is true of the Northcentral Technical College foundation board, of which he is a member. Each foundation has discretion in this area based on district needs.

Board President Tyler recognized Board members who served on the Working Group, as well as System Office staff Jim Zylstra, Nancy Merrill, Mike Carney and Judy Barbian.

**It was moved by Board member Baranowski, seconded by Board member Willett, that the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves the per credit tuition rate for 2013-14 as follows:**

<b>Postsecondary/Vocational Adult</b>	<b>\$122.20 per credit</b>
<b>Postsecondary/Vocational Adult non-resident addition</b>	<b>\$ 61.10 per credit</b>
<b>Collegiate Transfer</b>	<b>\$165.40 per credit</b>
<b>Collegiate Transfer non-resident addition</b>	<b>\$ 82.70 per credit</b>

**Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ITEM K: Consent Agenda Items**

Board President Tyler offered the consent agenda items for Board discussion. He pointed out a correction to the Moraine Park Technical College rental of facilities in Jackson item. The last sentence should read "The cost of improvements will be funded by ~~district borrowing~~ the district's operational fund balance."

**It was moved by Board member Schwantes, seconded by Board member Petersen, that the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves the program and facilities development requests as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ITEM L: Gateway Technical College – Referendum Concept Review**

WTCS Facilities Director, Dan Scanlon gave a brief overview of the project concept, while Gateway Technical College (GTC) President Bryan Albrecht provided a detailed presentation of proposed projects. Dr. Albrecht thanked Mr. Scanlon and Bill Whyte for their work on the concept review.

Board member Willett asked Dr. Albrecht how many K-12 schools in the GTC district were going to referendum at the same time. Dr. Albrecht stated that there are 17 K-12 schools in the district and there are two small referendums going at the same time. Dr. Albrecht explained that the referendum is being presented to the public in combination with the other referendums, and that they complement each other rather.

Board member Petersen commented that Elkhorn is a commuter community and the biggest criticism is access to good paying jobs to keep graduates living in the area. Dr. Albrecht explained that this referendum helps the college address these issues.

**It was moved by Board member Willett, seconded by Board member Schwantes, that the Wisconsin Technical College System Board finds the concept for Gateway Technical College’s proposed remodeling of existing facilities and construction of additions in Racine, Elkhorn and Kenosha, and the acquisition of land to construct a Public Safety Training Center are reasonable. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ITEM M: Madison Area Technical College – Project Concept Review**

Mr. Scanlon gave a brief overview of the project concept review and deferred to Board members for discussion and questions, receiving none.

**It was moved by Board member Barry, seconded by Board member Baranowski, that the Wisconsin Technical College System Board finds the concept for Madison Area Technical College’s proposed remodeling of facilities in Madison is reasonable. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **ITEM N: Chippewa Valley Technical College – Project Concept Review**

Mr. Scanlon gave a brief overview of the project concept review, while Chippewa Valley Technical College President Bruce Barker provided a detailed presentation of proposed projects.

No Board discussion or questions were voiced.

**It was moved by Board member Petersen, seconded by Board member Wendt, that the Wisconsin Technical College System Board finds the concept for Chippewa Valley Technical College’s construction of facilities in Eau Claire is reasonable. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **ITEM O: Legislative Update**

Legislative updates were presented by WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra, WTCS Senior Policy Advisor and Federal Relations Officer Nancy Merrill, and District Boards Association Executive Director Paul Gabriel.

Mr. Zylstra outlined what is contained in the Governor's budget proposal. He explained the performance-based funding proposal and the adjustments the System Office will request of the Joint Committee on Finance.

Mr. Zylstra explained the planned changes to categorical aids and that new grant guidelines would be released in the fall. The System Office will work with the Board to set funding priorities for these funds. There are also proposed changes to property tax levy limits, including allowances for an increase linked to new construction, which is consistent with current law pertaining to other units of local government. System Office staff are recommending revised language that allows for counting new construction in communities that are split between technical college districts, which the existing proposal does not.

Mr. Zylstra noted the budget also includes changes to the Wisconsin GI Bill. The budget revises program eligibility requires individuals to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0. With respect to state need-based financial aid, funding for WTCS Wisconsin Higher Education Grants (WHEG) remains unchanged. President Foy and the state's other education leaders will testify before Joint Finance tomorrow morning.

Ms. Merrill provided background on the automatic, across-the-board cuts to be imposed based on federal "sequestration" that took effect March 1, and summarized other federal fiscal issues and reauthorization of key federal legislation, including the Higher Education, Perkins, and Workforce Investment Acts.

Mr. Gabriel informed Board members that the District Boards Association web-site includes information on current legislation affecting the districts. Board President Tyler voiced that he is pleased with the proposed budget, but advocacy work remains. Tomorrow's testimony before Joint Finance will be very important.

Mr. Zylstra explained that the next step is for the Joint Finance Committee to hold public hearings at locations around the state. Typically, the minority party holds additional hearings.

Board discussion included which legislators were supporting various funding priorities. President Foy indicated that confusion remains about actual savings realized under Act 10. In her Joint Finance testimony, she will not discuss the previous budget, focusing instead on the System's future goals and plan to address the state's skills gap. President Foy reiterated that the Board was aggressive in developing its budget request to meet specified college needs for addressing the skills gap, not simply trying to recoup funding cuts from the previous budget. Board President Tyler remarked that WTCS has the data to support the budget requests.

Board member Willett agreed that the colleges have solid data to back up funding requests and understand that education and job training go hand-in-hand. Communities recognize the role of the colleges, which is why the referendums have been successful.

**ITEM P: Announcements/Adjourn**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the WTCS Board will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013, at the System Office in Madison.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Lynch  
Recording Secretary