

MINUTES OF MEETING
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD
MARCH 18, 2020
TELECONFERENCE

Members Present: Douglas Holton, Sr., Becky Levzow, Rodney Pasch, Cooper Richason, John Schwantes, Carolyn Stanford Taylor, S. Mark Tyler, Stephen Willett, Mary Williams.

Members Absent: Caleb Frostman, Eve Hall, Terry McGowan, Kelly Tourdot.

System Office Staff Present: Dan Arneson, Terese Craig, Monique Currie, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Stephanie Glynn, Nickelle Haffey, Sarah Kavanaugh, Tou Ya Khang, Colleen McCabe, Anna Richter, Jason Ring, Michelle Rudman, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Conor Smyth, Kyle Stahl, Brandon Trujillo, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Vernon Jung, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Ann Ilagan, Wisconsin Student Government; Bryan Albrecht, Gateway Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Bruce Barker, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Kaylen Betzig, Cyndi Kaye Lambach, Waukesha County Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Jack Daniels, Madison Area Technical College; Susan May, Fox Valley Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Richard Nelson, Nicolet Area Technical College; Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; John Will, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Department of Public Instruction.

Board Secretary Tyler called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

Board Secretary Tyler explained that the meeting was changed to a virtual format as the System responds to concerns related to coronavirus (COVID-19).

Board Secretary Tyler presided over the meeting with Board President Levzow in attendance while traveling.

ITEM A: Approval of the January 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Holton, that the January 21, 2020 meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM B: Report of the Board President

Board Secretary Tyler provided the President's report and thanked everyone for their flexibility with the virtual meeting.

The Futuremaker Partner award is presented to a valuable connection between the host college, in this case Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC), and an employer partner. WCTC selected Metal-Era, North America's largest supplier of pre-manufactured metal edge roofing products and located in Waukesha, to be recognized with this award.

National Ag Day was hosted at Chippewa Valley Technical College on March 4, 2020. Randy Romanski, the interim Ag Secretary, and "Alice in Dairyland" Abigail Martin attended, as well as 400 high school students, who were competing in CVTC's Ag Skills contest.

The Board's Strategic Directions Workgroup will participate in a teleconference in April and Conor Smyth, WTCS Director of Strategic Advancement, will join the Board in May for an update.

Dr. Hall's Board of Regents reports for December and February were included in the Board folders for review.

ITEM C: Report of the System President

On March 4, System President Foy testified on Wisconsin's apprenticeship programs before the Higher Education and Workforce Investment Subcommittee of the House Education and Labor Committee in Washington, D.C. In her testimony, she not only represented the System's work, but also spoke on behalf of Rebuilding America's Middle Class (RAMC), a national coalition of community colleges.

System President Foy recognized Betsy Leonard, WTCS Education Director for Agriculture, Natural Resources and STEM, who worked closely with CVTC for a successful Ag Day. President Foy also expressed appreciation to CVTC President Bruce Barker and his entire team for adding recognition of National Ag Day to CVTC's Ag Skills contest.

At the end of January, the WTCS Conference on Race and Ethnicity ("WISCORE") brought together teams of students, staff and faculty from each technical college to share perspectives and address issues related to race and ethnicity. It featured a fantastic keynote, Michael Benitez, who has extensive experience addressing diversity issues in higher education.

The last week of February was Open Education Week. System President Foy shared Open Educational Resources (OER) highlights from the past year from throughout the System. The WTCS OER network, which was founded and is led by WTCS Senior Researcher Hilary Barker, has over 90 members

ITEM D: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (DBA) President and Moraine Park Trustee Vernon Jung and Executive Director Layla Merrifield updated the Board on recent activities.

In February, 50 Wisconsin technical college representatives traveled to Washington D.C. for the National Legislative Summit, where they joined more than 1,000 community college trustees, presidents and other leaders from across the country, and learned about the authorization of the Higher Education Act. Ms. Merrifield thanked WTCS Policy Advisor Monique Currie for attending and helping to prepare trustees.

The DBA Spring meeting scheduled for April 2-4, in Milwaukee, has been canceled. The DBA Board will have a conference call on April 3, to conduct essential business, including annual elections.

ITEM E: WTCS Presidents' Association

System President Foy reported that college Presidents are fully engaged in responding to COVID-19 concerns.

ITEM F: Teaching and Learning – WTCS Information Technology Programs

Sarah Kavanaugh, WTCS Education Director for Information Technology Programs, and Dr. Cyndi Kaye Lambach, Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) Associate Dean-Information Technology, provided an overview of the System's IT programs.

Program enrollments have been steady with course enrollments in new and emerging areas including IT-Security, IT-Computer Simulation and Gaming, IT-Data and IT-Cloud and Virtualization.

In 2019, 46 percent of those enrolled were first generation students. The programs have also seen steady enrollment increases for students of color and students with disabilities, includes physical and cognitive. However, women enrolled in IT programs has decreased.

WCTC had 25 students from 12 different high schools through dual enrollment receive 22 credits in IT Systems Specialist. In addition to WCTC, six other colleges across the system have introduced the Google IT Support Professional Certificate and have partnered with local high schools and college ELL teams for increasing computer skills and move into Google Certificate with a pathway into AAS programs.

ITEM G: Consent Agenda

It was moved by Board Member Levzow, seconded by Board Member Williams, that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests as presented, with the exception of the facilities development approval for Western Technical College. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Board Member Levzow, seconded by Board Member Stanford Taylor, that the Board approve the Facilities Development Request for Western Technical College's remodeling of facilities in La Crosse. Motion carried 8-0; Board member Richason abstained.

ITEM H: Chippewa Valley Technical College Project Concept Review

Dan Scanlon, WTCS Facilities Director, introduced President Bruce Barker, Chippewa Valley Technical College (CVTC), who presented the proposed facility projects and CVTC's April 2020 facilities referendum.

CVTC has completed a master plan and the projects in this concept review are a response to current and projected needs for the District. The District has an April 7, 2020 referendum planned and all the projects with a cost of over \$1,500,000 are subject to a two-phased review process. Funding for the projects will be by district borrowing pending the successful outcome of an April 7, 2020 referendum in the amount of \$48,800,000. The Board will receive the project review at a future Board meeting if the referendum passes.

Proposed projects include the following:

1. Transportation Education Center Construction
2. Emergency Services Education Center Expansion & Remodeling
3. Manufacturing Education Center Addition
4. Additional Campus Renovations and Expansions

The projects will take place in three phases with completion expected in 2023.

It was moved by Board Member Richason, seconded by Board Member Holton that the concepts for Chippewa Valley Technical College's proposed construction, of an addition in Eau Claire and acquisition of property in River Falls, are reasonable. The final scope and design of the projects are subject to review and approval by the Board as required by s. 38.04(10) Stats. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM I: 2020-21 Tuition Recommendation

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra provided the Board with an overview of the tuition recommendation process and historical trends.

The Tuition workgroup, consisting of Board Members Levzow, Tourdot, Willett and Richason, considered many factors impacting the technical colleges and forwarded a recommendation for a

1.75 percent increase in tuition for both Postsecondary/Vocational Adult programs and Collegiate Transfer to System President Foy. Workgroup members Lezow, Richason and Willett spoke favorably of the process, and offered strong support for the recommendation.

Board Member Holton thanked the workgroup, indicating he could support a 1 percent increase.

Board Member Tyler did not participate on the workgroup but explained that student cost has always been part of the discussion, including the level of student debt and ability to repay it. Tyler said that the Board has been diligent in listening to all stakeholders regarding tuition, including policymakers. WTCS continues with very modest increases while providing the tech colleges with needed resources. Tyler commended the process of keeping student costs reasonable.

System President Foy reiterated that student debt has consistently been part of the Board's discussion and noted the importance of including the Board's student member as part of the workgroup. She also noted that increases have been minimal and incremental to allow students to plan, and that students typically understand that their tuition is going towards things like state-of-the-art equipment and retention of quality faculty.

Board Member Stanford Taylor shared that tech colleges need the resources to keep a competitive edge so that they remain "the best bang for your buck."

It was moved by Board Member Lezow, seconded by Board Member Willett, that the Board approve the per credit tuition rates for 2020-21 as follows:

Postsecondary/Vocational Adult	\$138.90 per credit
Postsecondary/Vocational Adult non-resident addition	\$69.45 per credit
Collegiate Transfer	\$187.85 per credit
Collegiate Transfer non-resident addition	\$93.93 per credit

Motion carried 8-1; Board member Holton opposed. Motion passes.

ITEM J: State and Federal Grant Awards

WTCS Grant Manager Tou Ya Khang presented an overview of the System's grant process and recommendations, highlighting initiatives in each grant category. More than \$37 million in grants are awarded annually. Grant activities begin on July 1 and technical colleges will be provided with technical assistance throughout the year. At the July Board meeting, the FY21-22 grant guidelines will be presented to the Board for approval.

Board Member Richason inquired about the grant recommendations process, asking whether WTCS provides feedback to colleges as to why they were not approved for a grant so colleges can improve future grant applications. Mr. Khang stated that the System's grants team works closely with the colleges throughout the year, and that colleges are encouraged to contact the System Office for an overview of grant recommendations and what could strengthen applications in future years.

It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Schwantes, that the Board approve funding awards for the State of Wisconsin, Carl D. Perkins Act and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act grant programs for fiscal year 2020-21 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM K: Adult Education and Family Literacy Act Grant Guidelines

WTCS Associate Vice President Terese Craig, also state director for AEFLA, provided a brief overview of Title II of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and presented proposed guidelines for awarding grants under Title II, also known as the federal Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA).

Upon Board approval, WTCS will be able to hold information sessions during the summer of 2020 and allow eligible providers time to explore their programming and consortium opportunities in advance of the grant application deadline of January 2021.

To improve the guidelines, WTCS:

- strengthened accountability for serving special/focused populations;
- updated the application to include program review and monitoring that ensure program quality and student success; and
- added a grant suspension/termination process.

It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Schwantes, that the Board adopt the funding categories for the AEFLA grant program for fiscal years 2022-2025. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM L: Legislative Update

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra and DBA Executive Director Merrifield provided an update on key legislative issues affecting the System, including the Farm and Tuition Grant, the suicide hotline being added to student IDs beginning July 1, and a bill to fix the personal property aid calculation error.

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo gave an overview of the recent Wisconsin Student Government (WSG) legislative seminar, during WSG identified three priorities: expanded use of Open Educational Resources (OER), increased funding for Wisconsin Grants and improved credit transfer between UW and WTCS. Mr. Trujillo also recognized Ann Ilagan, as her term as WSG President ends prior to the Board's next meeting. In a separate matter, Trujillo noted that WTCS courses are already in compliance with new legislation mandating truck driving courses include human trafficking as part of the curriculum.

WTCS Policy Advisor Monique Currie provided a federal update, noting that the Department of Education will seek to suspend interest on student loans due to COVID-19

ITEM M: Announcements/Adjourn

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is scheduled for May 12, 2020 at the System Office in Madison. It was noted that the meeting is likely to be hosted in a virtual format.

It was moved by Board Member Levzow, seconded by Board Member Stanford Taylor, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Drake
Recording Secretary