

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD**  
**JULY 8, 2020**  
**TELECONFERENCE**

Members Present: Caleb Frostman, Eve Hall, Douglas Holton, Sr., Becky Levzow, Terry McGowan, Rodney Pasch, Cooper Richason, John Schwantes, Carolyn Stanford Taylor, Kelly Tourdot, S. Mark Tyler, Stephen Willett, Mary Williams.

System Office Staff Present: Dan Arneson, Judy Barbian, Hilary Barker, Terese Craig, Monique Currie, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Stephanie Glynn, Nickelle Haffey, Mandy Johnson, Tou Ya Khang, Jim Mackey, Colleen McCabe, Katy Pettersen, Anna Richter, Katie Roberts, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Kyle Stahl, Brandon Trujillo, Julie Tyznik, Ann Westrich, Angie White, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Betty Bruski Mallak, Angie Lawrence, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Ann Ilagan, Wisconsin Student Government; Zina Haywood, Gateway Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Bruce Barker, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Jack Daniels, Madison Area Technical College; Danielle Bergner, Janice Falkenberg, Joshua Jeffers, Jelena Kutlaca, Vicki Martin, James Weishan, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Susan May, Fox Valley Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Kate Ferrell, Richard Nelson, John Van De Loo, Nicolet Area Technical College; Julie Barreau, Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Wade Hackbarth, Western Technical College; Lori Weyers, Northcentral Technical College; Susan Lockwood, Jade Peckels, John Will, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College; Greg Christenson, Frontier Ag & Turf; Sharon Wendt, Department of Public Instruction; Tracy Davidson, Carleen Vande Zande, University of Wisconsin System.

**Board President Levzow called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.**

Board President Levzow congratulated Board Member Cooper Richason, who will graduate from Western Technical College with an Associate of Arts degree on August 23.

Board President Levzow recognized Ann Ilagan, Mid-State Technical College student and Wisconsin Student Government President, who is in that role for another year and is a member of the System's Biennial Budget Development work group.

Board President Levzow thanked Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College (WITC) President John Will and his team for helping to feature WITC – New Richmond during the meeting. President Will welcomed the Board and shared a brief update on WITC's pandemic response.

**ITEM A: Approval of the May 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

**It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Willett, that the May 12, 2020 meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

Board President Levzow announced that in light of the current direction from the state and local public health agencies, as well as the fiscal impact of the pandemic, remaining 2020 WTCS Board meetings will be adapted to a virtual format. The September meeting will be hosted by Mid-State Technical College the morning of September 16, while the November meeting will be hosted by Northcentral Technical College the morning of November 11. Mr. Smyth and Ms. Drake will work with Mid-State President Shelly Mondeik and Northcentral President Lori Weyers and their teams to assure that the colleges are featured throughout each agenda.

Dr. Hall's Board of Regents report for April was included in the Board folders for review.

The first meeting of the Board of Regents with interim University of Wisconsin System (UWS) President Tommy Thompson is scheduled for Thursday, July 9, 2020.

Board President Levzow recognized Greg Christenson and Frontier Ag & Turf, industry partner and a specialist in agricultural, commercial, residential, golf and power sports products, who has been a partner and supporter of WITC – New Richmond, as the WTCS Futuremaker Partner.

Board President Levzow asked Mr. Christenson, as the System works to renew its Strategic Directions, how the company's education and training needs will change in the next five years. Mr. Christenson discussed the rapid pace of change in equipment technology, and the need for graduates with the skills to understand and maintain the equipment, as well as the need for lifelong learning.

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

On June 3, System President Foy shared with Board members the WTCS Commitment to Progress in the wake of events in Minneapolis and the important national dialogue that followed. In mid-June, President Foy followed up with five initiatives, established in collaboration with the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association and the Presidents' Association:

1. Sustained Conversations on Systemic Racism and Policy Reform
2. Focus on Equity in Student Access and Success
3. Use of Data to Close Equity Gaps
4. Review of Hiring and Retention Policies
5. Increased Transparency

On May 20-21, WTCS Education Director for Ag, Natural Resources and STEM Betsy Leonard, facilitated a System-wide professional development opportunity: The Digital Transformation of Wisconsin's Work, Learning and Travel in response to COVID-19.

On June 24, WTCS Executive Staff Assistant Julie Drake, organized an opportunity for the 2020 WTCS Ambassadors to connect with each other and the WTCS planning team virtually. President Foy asked Board members to save the date for a virtual recognition of the 2020 WTCS Ambassadors on Monday evening, November 2.

On June 30, the Department of Labor announced \$80 million in grants to 42 States to expand apprenticeship into new sectors, streamline and better align apprenticeship with secondary and postsecondary education, and increase the participation and completion rates of apprenticeships, particularly for historically under-represented populations.

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development will receive \$8.5 million to increase the number of apprentices statewide by 25 percent during the grant period and create a five-year plan that positions apprenticeship as a primary workforce strategy in Wisconsin.

WTCS colleges are the primary provider of related classroom instruction for apprenticeships in Wisconsin and are proud to collaborate with DWD in this effort.

Board Member Hall stated that it will be important for the plans to reflect racial inclusion in the Apprenticeship programs, expansion of the areas where this education model is used and opportunities to reach communities that have been left out.

WTCS Provost and Vice President Dr. McCabe recently served as a panelist in a national, virtual discussion focused on institutions' and Systems' response to the pandemic. It was well-received, and she has been asked back as a panelist for a future session focused on preparations for the fall.

President Foy has extended restrictions on staff travel for meetings planned by others, as well as shifting WTCS-planned meetings and events to a virtual format. This serves to maintain team safety and control costs, for the System and for the colleges. At this time, this is effective through December 2020. Events that cannot be held virtually will be postponed.

Four articles were shared with Board members within the context of the Board's continuing work on renewing the System's Strategic Directions:

- *"Public strongly supports two-year colleges."* The article notes that the public believes community colleges are a better value, more likely to contribute to a strong workforce and run more efficiently than other higher education institutions, according to a *New America* survey.
- In *"Looking Beyond the Collee Degree,"* it is noted that a quarter of Americans say they would pursue education or training within six months if they lost their job, but most prefer nondegree training over the traditional college route.
- In *"Are Universities Going the Way of CDs and Cable TV?"* the author argues that like the entertainment industry, colleges will need to embrace digital services in order to survive.
- Finally, in *"Student debt crisis creates a 'vicious cycle' of inequality in Black, Latino neighborhoods,"* a new analysis of student borrower data from New York, Washington D.C., Philadelphia and San Francisco finds that "America's student debt crisis is a civil rights crisis."

#### **ITEM D: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association**

Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association (DBA) Executive Director Layla Merrifield updated the Board on recent activities.

The DBA Summer Meeting has been changed to a virtual format on July 24, while its Annual planning meeting will take place the end of August and will include System President Foy sharing an update on the WTCS Boards' renewal of strategic directions.

Ms. Merrifield again thanked System President Foy and the System Board for including DBA on the Biennial Budget Development work group.

### **ITEM E: WTCS Presidents' Association**

Mid-State Technical College President Shelly Mondeik, and President of the Association, provided the Board with a brief update on recent activities.

The Presidents' Association Annual retreat took place virtually on June 4 and included college updates, information sharing, how colleges are handling COVID, summer offerings, preparing for fall semester, the 2020-21 meeting schedule, and committees were formed. They will meet virtually once a month through the end of the year.

The Presidents' Association is committed to having a collective voice and to oppose injustice while creating a more inclusive and equitable society. Each college will work on the five initiatives System President Foy shared in her report, in addition to working collectively.

A Presidents' Association meeting will take place the afternoon of July 8.

### **ITEM F: Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College Presentation**

WITC President Will and Susan Lockwood, Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness and New Richmond Campus Administrator, greeted the Board and shared an update on WITC's work and community connections. They were joined by WITC graduate Jade Peckels.

Peckels was hired in the Student Services Department at WITC-New Richmond and shared his story of difficult experiences in high school that led him to drop out his senior year. When he enrolled at WITC, he was determined to have a more successful educational experience.

As WTCS works to renew its Strategic Directions for the next five-year period, Board President Levzow asked Peckels what he and other students need from education providers in the next five years. Peckels replied that students believe that communication and having a personal connection with someone from the college, such as an advisor, is increasingly important. Additionally, students believe that because hands-on learning is one of the best things about tech colleges, in the current virtual environment there is a strong need to keep students engaged and connected with faculty, staff and each fellow student.

After a break, the Board resumed meeting at 10:35 a.m.

### **ITEM G: 2021-23 Student Financial Aid Request to HEAB**

WTCS Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided the Board an overview of the 2021-23 biennial budget request for need-based financial aid, which must be submitted to the Higher Education Aids Board. The recommended request is for an increase of \$11.8 million GPR in each year of the biennium, which would allow colleges to increase the average WTCS Wisconsin Grant award to \$1,100, and to expand the pool of eligible students to those enrolled in at least three credit hours.

Board Member Tyler thanked Mr. Trujillo for his work on the request and feels it addresses feedback of the work group very well. Tyler believes it is important that the gap between what students at other institutions receive and what WTCS students are eligible for is closed.

Board Member Richason asked what arguments are used by WAICU and UW System that result in greater funding for their students. System President Foy explained that the budget appropriation is separate for each System.

**It was moved by Board Member Stanford Taylor to approve the submission of the WTCS request for financial aid to the Higher Education Aids Board, seconded by Board Member Williams. Motion carried unanimously.**

Board Member Stanford Taylor left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

#### **ITEM H: State and Federal Perkins Grant Guidelines**

WTCS Grants Manager Tou Ya Khang provided an overview of the guidelines for the State of Wisconsin and federal Perkins V Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant programs for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22.

Updates and changes made to the FY 2021-22 grant guidelines include:

- A change to the source and structure for Perkins funding of the Criminal Offenders Program.
- Updated purpose, funds available, objectives and allowable activities for each grant category; to help applicants understand the intent of the grants and successfully submit applications that lead to equitable outcomes.
- Starting with FY 2021-22 applications, applicants will apply for funds using a new web-based grants management tool, with use training provided by the System Office later this year.
- Grant suspension language was expanded to include grant recipient-initiated suspension. This allows the grantee to temporarily suspend a grant they receive, if necessary.
- Updated application due dates and staff contacts for the State and Perkins Grants. Perkins grants will be due December 11, 2020 and state grants will be due January 14, 2021.
- The Grants Summit will be held virtually on September 25, 2020 for colleges to learn about the updated grant guidelines and rubrics.

**It was moved by Board Member Holton, seconded by Board Member Tourdot, to adopt the funding categories for the State of Wisconsin and Perkins V Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant programs for fiscal year 2021-22, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ITEM I: Consent Agenda**

Board Member Willett noted that the Northcentral Technical College concept for its Law Enforcement in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century program appears to address current concerns with law enforcement nationally. President Foy explained that all WTCS law enforcement Associate Degree programs are under review, internally and in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Justice.

Board Member Willett inquired about the two Madison College remodeling of facilities development requests, which appear identical. WTCS Director of Facilities Development Dan Scanlon and Madison College President Daniels explained that these projects are on different floors, in outdated spaces, and while they are related, they are distinct projects.

**It was moved by Board Member Pasch, seconded by Board Member Willett, that the Board approve the program and facilities development requests as presented, as well as verifying the interim District Board appointments, with the exception of those for Western Technical College. Motion carried unanimously.**

**It was moved by Board Member Hall, seconded by Board Member McGowan, that the Board verify Western Technical College's program development requests. Motion carried 11-0; Board Member Richason abstained.**

## **ITEM J: Milwaukee Area Technical College – Project Concept Review**

Dr. Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College President, provided an overview of the proposed lease of facilities for student housing in downtown Milwaukee.

Board Member Tyler voiced concerns with guaranteeing 100 percent occupancy, high cost of furnishings, option to renew after seven years, and a 2.5 percent increase over 7-14 years. Dr. Martin believes that while ambitious, the objectives can be obtained. Janice Falkenberg, MATC Vice President and General Counsel, noted that the second seven-year term is optional and will be up to MATC to continue and, based on real estate in the Milwaukee area, 2.5 percent is a typical increase. Dr. Martin shared that currently there are no other viable options for safe and affordable housing, and they are looking at other options with the foundation to help students cover costs.

Board Member Hall asked if student housing existed in the past, or if this is new, and if the project will include a computer lab or just Wi-Fi access. Dr. Martin explained that MATC has had housing arrangements with UW-Milwaukee, Marquette, and MSOE, but that they have capacity issues. Seeing a growing demand and wait list for transitional students, they need to provide stable and affordable housing and plan to include a computer lab and workout facility. Currently, they have students near campus paying much higher rents.

Board Member Holton noted that the building was built in 1924, likely resulting in a historic designation. Josh Jeffers, founder of J. Jeffers & Co., shared that the building does have historic and landmark designations. Jeffers said his firm specializes in maintaining historic status through renovation and will use state and federal tax credits to support this work.

**It was moved by Board Member Holton, seconded by Board Member Hall, that the Board finds the Milwaukee Area Technical College's proposed lease of facilities for student housing in Downtown Milwaukee as reasonable. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **ITEM K: Teaching and Learning – Credit Transfer**

WTCS Provost and Vice President Dr. Colleen McCabe and Associate Vice President Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, joined by WTCS Education Directors Valerie Crespín-Trujillo and Ann Westrich, provided the Board with an overview of current opportunities for students to transfer credits into and out of the System, including:

- transfer agreements with University of Wisconsin (UW) System institutions, including progress on the provisions included in 2019 Wisconsin Act 46, which includes certain transfer requirements of WTCS, UW System and tribal colleges;
- the launch of “Transferology,” a new web-based tool to assist students – UW, WTCS and tribal colleges – in identifying existing transfer opportunities; and
- transfer agreements with Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Dr. McCabe gave an update on the *60 Forward* postsecondary attainment initiative.

Ms. Seeley-Schreck shared WTCS transfer priorities, which include Program-to-Program Articulation best practices, engagement with the technical colleges' Chief Academic Officers, and implementation of the System-wide transfer agreement with MSOE's Technical Sales Bachelor of Business Administration program.

Ms. Westrich discussed strengthening the WTCS-WAICU partnership, including a new System-wide transfer agreement for WTCS that includes 15 of 24 WAICU institutions in Phase I.

Ms. Crespín-Trujillo discussed the new Transferology™ tool, which was created to help students better understand transfer opportunities available to them. Transferology™, launched July 1, is a partnership with UW and Tribal Colleges and replaced the Transfer Information System (TIS) with the responsive Transfer Equivalence System (TES).

Dr. Carleen Vande Zande stated that UW System is committed to creating more transfer opportunities and fully supports the joint statement.

Board Members applauded the staff for their commitment to inter-system transfer.

**It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Willett, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board supports the Joint Statement on Inter-System Transfer of students. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **ITEM L: Strategic Directions Development – 2021-2025**

System President Foy asked members of the Board's Strategic Directions work group to share thoughts on the draft vision statement.

Board Member Pasch shared that while no one knows the future, progress to date on renewing the System's Strategic Directions has been successful and he is looking forward to facing the challenge.

Board Member Tourdot noted the difficulty of engaging in long-term planning process when so many immediate issues are at play. However, Tourdot stated, it is an important time to engage employers and others on workforce issues, as well as to solidify public perception of technical colleges as the "education of choice."

System President Foy reminded the Board that a broad-based stakeholder survey will be rolled out in August, seeking stakeholder input on System priorities.

#### **ITEM M: Legislative Update**

Due to time constraints, it was requested that a written legislative update be sent to the Board.

#### **ITEM N: Election of Officers**

Board President Lezvow called for nominations.

**Board Member Schwantes nominated Board officers Becky Lezvow for President; Rodney Pasch for Vice President; and S. Mark Tyler for Secretary and moved that a unanimous ballot be cast to elect these individuals as officers of the Board for 2020-21. Board Member McGowan seconded the motion.**

Board Member Lezvow called for nominations two additional times and hearing no other nominations, asked for a vote.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Board Member Lezvow thanked the Board for their support and nomination and is looking forward to leading the WTCS Board for a second term.

**ITEM O: Announcements/Adjourn**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 16, 2020. It will be hosted in a virtual format and feature Mid-State Technical College.

**It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Schwantes, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Drake  
Recording Secretary