

Minutes of Meeting

Wisconsin Technical College System Board
January 26, 2010
WTCS System Office
Madison, WI

Members Present:

Mary Quinnette Cuene
Stan Davis
Terry Erickson
Tony Evers
Roberta Gassman
Ann Greenheck
Phil Neuenfeldt (left at 10:50 a.m.)
Eddie Paul
Michael Rosen (left at 10:55 a.m.)
Brent Smith (left at 10:35 a.m.)
Mark Tyler
Jose Vasquez

System Office Staff Present:

Dan Clancy, Kathy Cullen, Morna Foy, Donna Jordan, Jim Zylstra, Willa Panzer, Annette Severson, Conor Smyth, Nancy Merrill, Bob Dimperio, Valerie Payne, Kelly Shisler, Kyle Schwarm

District/Others Present:

Michael Burke, Milwaukee Area Technical College
Ellen Kirking, Chippewa Valley Technical College
Lori Weyers, Northcentral Technical College
Rob Elliott, Northcentral Technical College
Libby Burmaster, Nicolet Area Technical College
Susan May, Fox Valley Technical College
Pat Robinson, Fox Valley Technical College
Amy Van Straten, Fox Valley Technical College
Jill McEwen, Fox Valley Technical College
Karen Knox, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
Caleb White, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
Joan Senn, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
Bettsey Barhorst, Madison Area Technical College
Michael Stark, Madison Area Technical College
Mark Zlevor, Gateway Technical College
Craig Hjelle, Mid-State Technical College
Andy Lyons, WEAC
Joe Lowndes, AFT-Wisconsin
Paul Gabriel, District Boards Association
John Lukas, District Boards Association

Eric Gage, Wisconsin Student Government
Dennis Rhodes, Department of Administration
Layla Merrifield, Legislative Fiscal Bureau

Board President Davis called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Donna Jordan read the following open meeting statement: "The January 26, 2010, meeting of the Wisconsin Technical College System Board, and all other meetings of this Board, are open to the public in compliance with state statute. Notice of the meeting has been sent to the press in an attempt to make the general public of Wisconsin aware of the time, place, and agenda of the meeting."

Roll call indicated that a quorum was present.

Board Member Gassman asked that one change be made to the November 2009 draft Board minutes. On page 5, the last paragraph, the revised sentence should read, "It is mandatory that some unemployed workers go through assessments."

It was moved by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Cuene, that the November 17-18, 2009, Board minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Welcome/Report of the Board President

Board President Davis welcomed Eddie Paul, recently appointed student representative member, to the Board. Board Member Paul stated that he was very proud to have been appointed by Governor Doyle, and looked forward to serving on the Board.

Board President Davis reported that the Governor was presenting his State-of-the-State address tonight. System President Clancy and several Board members will be in attendance. The Governor will be laying out his agenda for his final year in office and is likely to discuss several priorities that will affect the WTCS, including job creation, green energy and increasing educational opportunities.

Board President Davis announced the appointment of Board members Cuene, Greenheck, Paul and Tyler to the Board's Tuition Workgroup. The full Board will set tuition for the 2010-2011 academic year at the March meeting. Board members Davis, Erickson, Rosen and Tyler will serve on the Budget Development Committee. The Budget Development Committee will meet several times over the next six months. The System's 2011-13 biennial budget request is due to the Governor by mid-September 2010.

Board President Davis noted that the UW Board of Regents report is contained in Board member folders. The Academic Leadership Council report is contained in Board agenda materials.

B. Report of the System President

System President Clancy provided an update on current plans for celebrating the System's 100th anniversary in 2011. Tentative plans include holding three different events in 2011 to commemorate the centennial year. A kick-off event in early 2011 would be held at the State Capitol in recognition of the role that the executive and legislative branches have played in the System's history and to bring statewide attention to the 100th year anniversary. The second event would be held when the State Board meets in July 2011 at Gateway Technical College. Racine was the first city to establish a continuation school and Gateway is celebrating the historic event by including the State Board and District Boards Association in recognition of the System's shared governance structure. The final centennial event would focus on the State Board and System level, since the first State Board meeting occurred in September 1911. Former Board members and System Office staff will be invited to participate in this event scheduled in conjunction with the Board's September 2011 meeting.

System President Clancy noted that most of the technical college districts will be celebrating their own centennials in 2011 through 2015. Plans are to have the statewide events kick-off and compliment regional events throughout the state. A centennial website is planned which will share how the 100th year celebration is being commemorated across the state. Many districts have already begun planning their own events, including developing videos, interviewing alumni, and telling success stories of WTCS graduates. The Statewide Marketing Consortium has been sharing district plans as they develop.

Board Member Gassman stated that in 2011 the state will be celebrating its centennial for the worker's compensation and apprenticeship programs as well. A committee has been appointed by the Governor to oversee the worker's compensation recognition. It is likely that there will be ways to collaborate on the Technical College System's celebration as the committee plans move forward.

Board Member Rosen stated that the development of technical colleges in the early 1900's was part of the progressive movement in the state under then Governor Robert LaFollette where "The Wisconsin Idea" theme emerged. Because of this movement, Wisconsin's technical colleges were created to serve as continuation schools for child labor.

System President Clancy reviewed the 2009-11 budget development process. He noted that the 2011-13 budget development process would proceed in a similar fashion as the 2009-11 process. The Board's budget development committee is made up of representatives from the State Board, Presidents Association, District Boards Association, Wisconsin Student Government, Wisconsin Education Association Council, American Federation of Teachers-Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Association of Career and Technical Education. This coalition will help shape and advance the System's budget request, which is a real asset when approaching the Governor and legislative members. System President Clancy emphasized that the final decision to advance any budget initiative is the responsibility of the Board.

System President Clancy noted that two years ago the Board decided to accelerate the process for developing the System's budget request. The Board adopted a budget framework in early summer 2008 so System staff and stakeholder groups could begin to mobilize advocacy efforts early in the year. Districts were very successful in soliciting local letters of support for the System's proposed initiatives, and this is planned again. Several of the initiatives put forward in the System's previous budget request remain relevant, including the Next Generation Workforce initiative, which targeted an increase in state general aids. It is likely stakeholders will put forth other initiatives, based on priorities as outlined by the Board.

System President Clancy stated that one priority he will advance in this budget process is to address the resource needs of the System Office. Over the past 10 years the System Office has reduced its staff from 75 down to 57 positions. These reductions have been managed without layoffs, but vacancies have not been filled. Responsibilities for the System Office have increased substantially, with more complex issues, and a greater need to work collaboratively with a larger number of other agencies. System staff have taken on a lot of additional work and responsibilities. It is recognized that securing additional resources will be a challenge, but a priority needs to be placed on exploring all options available.

System President Clancy reported on the National Skills Coalition's Skills Summit to be held in early February in Washington D.C. Morna Foy will participate in the Summit. The National Skills Coalition is the new name of the Workforce Alliance, the research and advocacy group that recently completed a report on Wisconsin's Middle Skills Jobs and the important role of the System in preparing Wisconsin's future workforce. Three representatives from Wisconsin serve on the Coalition. The Summit brings together local business, labor, college and workforce leaders from 25 states. Discussions will take place with Wisconsin's Congressional delegation regarding the importance of federal support for sector partnerships that can help stakeholders connect to a local industry plan, grow and re-tool their workforces for the future.

System President Clancy reported that an application has been submitted for a \$5 million Department of Energy grant in support of systemwide efforts for Smart Grid workforce training. All colleges were part of the grant application coordinated by the System Office. It is expected that word will be received by the end of January on whether the application was successful.

System President Clancy reported that last week Wisconsin received a \$6 million grant from the Department of Labor which will focus on developing skilled training in energy related fields. Funds will be made available to the local workforce centers, but the technical colleges will partner with the centers to provide the training.

Board Member Gassman stated that the Council on Workforce Investment was the entity submitting the application, with the Department of Workforce Development (DWD) serving as the fiscal agent. The application process was in partnership with the technical colleges and the System office. State leadership efforts and regional teams will help to advance the state in training over 4,500 current and future workers in green energy applications. Many of those to be trained will be current apprentices as well as journeyworkers.

Board Member Rosen asked whether the dollars will be allocated directly to the technical colleges or will the funds be filtered through the local workforce development boards. Board Member Gassman stated that it is likely the funds will go directly to the technical colleges from DWD. Board Member Gassman noted that this grant is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) dollars allocated to the state. To date, ARRA dollars have been very beneficial to Wisconsin, employing over 4,000 young adults this year. While this is very good news, there is still a long way to go.

System President Clancy introduced Dr. Michael Burke, recently appointed President of Milwaukee Area Technical College. Dr. Burke stated that it was a pleasure to be in Wisconsin, and he looked forward to working with the State Board, System President Clancy, and his staff.

C. WTCS Presidents Association

Dr. Lori Weyers, President of the Presidents Association, provided an update on the recent activities of the Association as they relate to the five strategic areas of focus for the current year. The areas of focus are: advocacy, diversity, economic development, sustainability, and funding and grants. Dr. Weyers reported that all districts are experiencing double digit enrollment increases for the second semester, ranging from 11 percent up to 30 percent. While it is challenging to deal with these enrollment increases, the colleges are working together to share resources wherever possible.

Board Member Tyler asked whether districts were anticipating that enrollments would continue to increase. Dr. Weyers stated that while this was certainly difficult to predict, most colleges are expecting enrollments will likely peak within the next year and then will level or drop slightly.

Dr. Weyers stated that it is extremely important to the Presidents that they continue to work together in the spirit of cooperation and not become competitive amongst themselves. The real competitors of the technical colleges include some of the private, for-profit institutions operating in the state. Concerns have been raised relating to practices of some of these institutions. This emphasizes the need for the System to continue to expand its advocacy efforts by getting the message out on the successes of our graduates.

Board Member Rosen expressed concern regarding action by the City of Milwaukee approving \$11 million of interest free bonds to help finance building renovations in downtown Milwaukee for Corinthian College. He noted that concerns have been raised about recruitment, credit transferability, and financial aid practices.

Board Member Gassman noted that these issues were a topic of discussion during the National Association of State Workforce Development agencies at their recent meeting. Other states are reporting the same trends, and there is legitimate concern for the well-being of the students.

Board President Davis stated that the Board does have a responsibility to protect its students. If technical college students are being lured away by these for-profit colleges with

false promises, then it may be the role of this Board to step in and ask for further investigation into matters such as this, so that it doesn't appear as if one particular college is only protecting its turf. System President Clancy stated the Educational Approval Board (EAB), a state department attached to the System Office for administrative purposes, oversees for-profit schools operating in the State of Wisconsin. It is the responsibility of the EAB to regulate for-profit college operations. Morna Foy noted that this issue was also discussed during last week's District Boards Association meeting. The Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities is also concerned about the negative effects of these for-profit colleges operating in the state.

Board Member Vasquez stated that the Board does have a responsibility to question and challenge the operations of these colleges, but the focus should be on citizens getting a good, quality, low cost education, and not on the fact that these are for-profit institutions.

Board Member Evers suggested that it might be beneficial to have a member of the Educational Approval Board speak to the concerns expressed today about these for-profit institutions.

Board President Davis stated that the sooner data is made available on what the colleges have done in the past as well as what is being done as the System moves forward, will be important when talking to the public and legislators. With the unprecedented growth the System is experiencing, additional resources will be needed to keep up with demand. This type of data will be critical as the System moves into its budget process.

D. WTC District Boards Association

John Lukas, Past President of the District Boards Association, provided an overview of the Association's January 20-22 meeting in Milwaukee. The meeting was held in conjunction with the annual School Boards Association meeting, with over 1,000 school board members and K-12 administrative leaders attending. The joint meeting highlighted the technical college and K-12 collaborative partnerships already in place, as well as areas for future joint efforts. Mr. Lukas noted that the annual ACCT National Legislative Seminar will be held on February 8-10, 2010, in Washington D.C. He thanked System Office staff for their assistance in preparing policy issue papers for use during congressional visits while in Washington. The spring Association meeting will be held on April 29-May 1 at Gateway Technical College in Racine.

Paul Gabriel, Executive Director, reported that two bills are currently in the Legislature relating to proprietary colleges. Both bills would require any proprietary schools registered to operate in Wisconsin to offer an Associate Degree or higher, not only short-term training, and to be accredited by the U.S. Department of Education or the Higher Learning Commission, the same accrediting agency as for WTCS colleges. This legislation focuses on providing greater accountability for these types of colleges. If the institutions do not provide an Associate Degree or higher, than the institutions cannot represent themselves as colleges or universities.

E. Consent Agenda Items

It was moved by Board Member Cuene, seconded by Board Member Smith, that, upon the recommendation of the Wisconsin Technical College System President, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves the program development and modification requests, with the exception of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's Gerontology Program Scope Proposal and Solar Energy Technology Program Proposal; the facilities development requests; and the Waukesha County Technical College and Western Technical College District Board appointments, as presented.

It was moved by Board Member Vasquez, seconded by Board Member Rosen, that, upon the recommendation of the Wisconsin Technical College System President, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's Gerontology Program Scope Proposal and Solar Energy Technology Program Proposal as presented.

Program Development, Modification and Discontinuances

<u>College</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
Chippewa Valley	Chemical Technician	Program Scope Proposal
Chippewa Valley	Construction Field Management	Program Scope Proposal
Fox Valley	Automotive Technology GM ASEP	Program Scope Proposal
Gateway	Criminal Justice – Law Enforcement Academy	Program Scope Proposal
Lakeshore	Physical Therapist Assistant	Program Scope Proposal
Northeast Wisconsin	Gerontology	Program Scope Proposal
Lakeshore	Fire Medic	Program Proposal
Northeast Wisconsin	Solar Energy Technology	Program Proposal
Southwest Wisconsin	Electrical Power Distribution	Program Proposal

Facilities Development Requests

Fox Valley Technical College – Construction of a building addition on the Appleton Campus for large group meeting and conference space at a cost of \$1,690,000.

Gateway Technical College – Remodeling of main entrance to the Lake Building, replacement of exterior stairs from the parking area and remodeling the tunnel connecting two buildings on the Racine Campus at costs of \$175,000, \$123,000 and \$150,000 respectively.

Madison Area Technical College – Rental of facilities in Madison to expand the West Madison Campus at an additional cost of \$624,341 per year.

Mid-State Technical College – Remodeling of the Welding laboratory on the Wisconsin Rapids Campus at a cost of \$632,000.

Milwaukee Area Technical College – Various remodeling projects at the Downtown and West Allis Campuses at a total cost of \$3,035,300.

Nicolet Area Technical College – Remodeling of the Art-Tech Building for laboratories / classrooms and the automotive laboratory on the Rhinelander Campus at a costs of \$933,400 and \$761,700 respectively.

Northcentral Technical College – Rental of facilities in Wausau for apprentice training at an annual cost of \$40,200.

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College – Rental of facilities in Richland Center at a cost of \$25,820 annually.

Waukesha County Technical College – Remodeling on the Pewaukee Campus for additional classroom space at a cost of \$92,700.

Western Technical College – Construction of an addition with related remodeling at the Sparta Campus at a cost of \$1,497,300.

Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College – Amend a previous approved project to construct additional facilities on the New Richmond Campus. The estimated project cost remains at \$1,500,000.

Interim District Board Appoints

Waukesha County Technical College

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term</u>
Additional Member	Carolyn T. Evenson	Jan. 26, 2010 – June 30, 2011

Western Technical College

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term</u>
Elected Official	Edward J. Lukasek	Jan. 26, 2010 – June 20, 2011

Motion #1 above carried unanimously.

Motion #2 above carried, Board Member Cuene abstained.

F. Southwest Wisconsin Technical College – Record of Decision – Environmental Impact Statement for the Construction of a Public Safety Training Center in Fennimore

It was moved by Board Member Greenheck, seconded by Board Member Erickson, that, upon the recommendation of the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System, and pursuant to s. TCS 12, Wisconsin Administrative Code, the proposed decision

on the Environmental Impact Statement, December 2009, for the acquisition of land and construction of a Public Safety Training Center in Fennimore be adopted.

Robert Dimperio, Facilities Director, reported that when acting on facilities development requests, there is a statutory requirement that the environmental impact of the project be considered. The proposed Public Safety Training facility required the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Mr. Dimperio provided an overview of the environmental review process, including the comments received on the Draft EIS, comments made at the public hearing, possible alternatives to the proposed action, probable adverse environmental impacts which cannot be avoided, beneficial impacts of the proposed action, conclusions from the environmental review, and the Record of Decision. Mr. Dimperio noted that the conclusion of the review was that the impacts resulting from the proposed action are not significant, and that the final EIS dated December 2009 meets the requirements for environmental review as contained in Wisconsin Administrative Code and Wisconsin Statutes.

Board President Davis asked what type of process is used to guarantee that the mitigating strategies are in place as outlined in the environmental impact statement. Mr. Dimperio noted that there is no formal process for ongoing monitoring of the strategies as outlined.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Southwest Wisconsin Technical College –Acquisition of Land and Construction of Additional Facilities in Fennimore

It was moved by Board Member Greenheck, seconded by Board Member Cuene, that, upon the recommendation of the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System, approval is granted to the Southwest Technical College to acquire approximately 83 acres of land at a cost of \$910,000 and construct a Public Safety Training Center at a cost of \$2,629,800.

Mr. Dimperio reported that Southwest Wisconsin Technical College proposes to acquire approximately 83 acres of land, including two buildings near the existing campus in Fennimore. The land will be used to develop a training center that will include an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC), an outdoor firing range, and a fire training burn building. The existing buildings of approximately 7,700 square feet and 6,400 square feet will be remodeled to provide for classroom, laboratory, office, and storage space. Currently the District does not have these dedicated and specific facilities for Police, Fire Services, and Emergency Medical Technician training. The remodeling of the classroom building will be designed to meet the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification standard. The total cost of the proposed project is \$3,539,800, and will be funded through district borrowing as authorized in an April 2008 referendum. This project was included in the campus expansion Project Concept Review conducted at the January 29, 2008, Board meeting. Mr. Dimperio provided a summary of the review criteria for the proposed project.

Motion carried unanimously.

Southwest Wisconsin Technical College President Dr. Karen Knox thanked the Board for their support of this final phase of the college's referendum project. The Child Care Center, the Ag and Automotive Building, and the Health Sciences Building are expected to open in fall 2010. Completion of the Public Safety Training Center is anticipated for December 2010. Dr. Knox noted that the State Board is scheduled to meet at the college in September 2010.

H. Teaching and Learning – Veterans Programs and Services

Willa Panzer, Associate Vice President, presented an overview of the services provided to veterans served by the Technical College System. A video, *Remember Me*, by Lizzie Palmer, paying tribute to all members of the military services and their families, was viewed.

Ms. Panzer reported that currently 3,600 veterans are receiving tuition remission while attending a Wisconsin technical college. The diversity of these veterans and the types of services they need are wide ranging. Education has always been an important part of a veteran's professional development while serving in active military status or after leaving service. Ms. Panzer provided an overview of the federal, state and Post 9-11 GI benefits available to Wisconsin's veterans. She noted that veterans may qualify for several different federal programs at the same time and for additional state and federal financial aid. Under the Wisconsin GI Bill, veterans may qualify in several different categories based on their own services and as a spouse and/or child of an eligible veteran. Because of this, a lot of documentation is required and a lot of confusion exists not only for the veterans, but also for all persons and agencies involved in providing those services.

Ms. Panzer stated that it is important to recognize that veterans are a special population group which are likely to need additional services as they begin or continue their education. Representatives of the Technical College System and the UW System recently participated in a demobilization event for 3,000 returning National Guard members by providing information on the services available and contacts in both systems to assist them in moving ahead towards their educational goals. Ms. Panzer noted that a recent survey indicated that 80 percent of National Guard members returning from active service were interested in receiving educational benefits available to them. Ms. Panzer highlighted some of the services provided by the colleges. She noted that four districts currently have special veterans' offices, and that several colleges have or are exploring restarting their student veterans' organizations. The technical colleges are working closely with the county veterans offices to assist the veterans in learning what benefits are available and how to best proceed.

Ms. Panzer summarized the next steps in serving current and future veterans. These include: (1) continue to work with focus groups and participate in joint efforts to support veteran students and receive feedback on the services provided by the colleges; (2) ensuring students and potential students know there is a place to go for information and assistance; and (3) improving coordination of efforts with the Department of Veterans Affairs, local service organizations and local units of the military.

Board Member Erickson stated that this would be an excellent presentation when meeting with various groups within the technical college community as well as service groups around the state.

Board Member Gassman noted that there are federally-funded staff within the job centers throughout the state who counsel veterans on going back to work and who are working with employers to connect veterans with jobs. Staff also work with returning disabled veterans so they are able to get needed services. There has been a significant increase in serving returning veterans through the job centers.

Board President Davis stated Ms. Panzer's presentation, as well as the video, certainly brings to the forefront the importance of what veterans have done for us. Everyone must be involved in engaging our veterans and remembering the personal commitments and sacrifices they have made. We all must be aggressive in helping returning veterans blend back in with their families and the communities as they determine their next steps after serving their country.

I. 2008-09 Program Approval/Discontinuance Summary

Kathleen Cullen, Vice President, stated that the program approval and discontinuance process adopted by the Board provides ongoing opportunities for technical colleges to update programming, demonstrates flexibility and responsiveness to the evolving needs for specific skills and knowledges in the workplace, and reflects changing priorities and reallocation of sources within the colleges. One of the Board's 2009-11 Strategic Directions specifically addresses providing flexible education and training options to meet the needs of business, industry and labor.

Ms. Cullen provided an overview of the System's Program Approval and Discontinuance process. She noted that during the past year, 20 new programs have been approved, with 10 of those being Applied Associate Degrees, one short-term program, five one-year technical diplomas, one two-year technical diploma, and three apprenticeship programs. Ms. Cullen highlighted each of the new program areas.

Ms. Cullen reported that during this past year, 42 programs were discontinued. The majority of these programs were in suspended status. The majority of these discontinued programs were because of changes in the job market. The colleges work with students to complete their program of study before the program ends. Pieces of many of the programs, as well as competencies, were moved into other program areas. Ms. Cullen provided an overview of the discontinued programs.

Ms. Cullen highlighted the importance of creating a balance in the current labor market needs vs. the emerging labor market needs. This could be risky as the colleges continually move forward in developing new and innovative programs to meet the future workforce needs of the state.

Ms. Cullen briefly summarized several current laddered programs. These programs are a re-packaging of skill sets to provide students with more flexibility as they move through their education and training.

J. Board Policy Revisions

Morna Foy, Vice President, reported that at its November 2009 meeting, the Board discussed the elimination of Board policies on Short-Term Technical Diploma program approval and program suspension, and proposed modifications to the Board policy on program approvals. Ms. Foy summarized the proposed modifications, and noted that there were no suggested changes to the policies prior to this meeting. However, Ms. Foy noted that just before the meeting, Board Member Rosen raised a concern and since he had to leave the meeting early, she would share his concern with the Board.

Board Member Rosen was uncomfortable with the words “other objectives” as stated in the last paragraph of Policy 310. He would like the words “documented objectives” instead. If a college asks for a program discontinuance, the college must demonstrate why they are doing it. Ms. Foy stated that several examples were listed within the policy, but all possible reasons could not be listed. Colleges would provide their own rationale for requesting discontinuance and could not just unilaterally close a program.

Board Member Vasquez asked whether programs currently have documented objectives for why the program is to be offered initially. As stated in the policy, a college must demonstrate a reasonable basis for discontinuing a program. The proposed modification, with the examples of enrollment, retention, and placement, seems to cover all situations.

Board Member Cuene agreed that the examples of enrollment, retention and placement are the key components for a district requesting a program discontinuance. The words “or other objectives” could be eliminated from the policy as well.

Board President Davis stated that by removing the words “or other objectives,” this might narrow the options for program discontinuance decisions by the colleges. This is a local decision made by the college and their board. The State Board is responsible for determining whether a college closed the program for legitimate reasons. Board President Davis stated that he was comfortable with the current language. However, there was no urgency in adopting the proposed policy modifications and they could be held until the Board’s March meeting.

Board Member Cuene stated that she felt Board Member Rosen’s expressed concerns likely relate to problems between college faculty and administration when decisions are made to discontinue programs. Board Member Vasquez stated that as has happened in the past, if there are serious objections to potential action by the colleges, these objections would be brought to the attention of the Board.

Board Member Cuene asked what type of process the colleges use in determining program discontinuances. Ms. Foy stated that the process is quite lengthy. The process is

spelled out in detail in the System Office's Educational Services Manual which is available to all districts.

It was moved by Board Member Cuene, seconded by Board Member Erickson, to change the word "other" to "documented" objectives in the last paragraph of Policy 310.

Board President Davis stated that this change is problematic for programs that have been in existence for some time. Board Member Tyler agreed that it was impossible to put a measurement standard on some of these programs if a measurement standard did not exist.

Motion to amend Policy 310 by changing the word "other" to "documented" objectives in the last paragraph failed – one aye, six noes.

It was moved by Board Member Vasquez, seconded by Board Member Tyler, that, upon the recommendation of the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System, the Wisconsin Technical College Board approves the elimination of Board Policy 305, Short-Term Technical Diploma Program Approval, and Board Policy 306, Suspension of Programs, and the modification of Board Policy 310, Program Approval, as presented.

Board Member Gassman stated that in fairness to the concerns expressed by Board Member Rosen, additional discussion needs to take place with Board Member Rosen in attendance.

Board Member Greenheck called for a roll call vote of the above motion.

Motion to adopt Policy 310 as initially presented failed. Vasquez, Tyler and Greenheck – aye; Cuene, Davis, Erickson, Evers, Gassman – no; Paul – abstain; Neuenfeldt, Rosen, Smith – absent.

It was moved by Board President Davis, seconded by Board Member Erickson, to table further discussion and action on this issue until the March Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Vasquez expressed concern relating to the previous discussion. He stated that Board members have ample opportunities to express personal concerns or opinions concerning an item before the Board in a timely manner if they are not able to be in attendance for the discussion. This can be done by asking to move the item out of order on the agenda or to delay discussion of the item until the next meeting. This surely would be a more appropriate manner in which issues of concern could be handled. The business of the Board must be addressed in a timely manner, and it is not fair for those in attendance to be held in suspension.

Board President Davis agreed there are various opportunities to address issues of concern within the context of the Board meeting.

Ms. Foy presented proposed modifications to Board Policy 312, Student Organizations. She noted that this is the first step in the review and revision of this policy. Board members are encouraged to send comments or suggestions to System Office staff prior to the March meeting.

Ms. Foy stated that the proposed revisions are intended to make the policy more reflective of what is actually going on in the colleges, as well as to better reflect the collaboration between the System Board and Wisconsin Student Government (WSG). Ms. Foy noted that the proposed changes to Policy 312 have been shared with WSG leadership. The only change recommended was the addition of the last sentence relating to naming a staff liaison to the WSG organization.

K. State and Federal Legislative Update

Morna Foy stated that a comprehensive federal legislative update provided by Nancy Merrill is contained in Board member folders.

Ms. Foy reported that AB 509, tagged the residence hall bill, has passed the Assembly and has moved on to Senator Wirsch's Committee on Small Business, Emergency Preparedness, Technical Colleges, and Consumer Protection. The bill provides that if a district develops, purchases or leases a student residence hall, the student lease payments are exempted from the funds counted toward the \$1.5 million capital projects limit triggering a districtwide referendum. This allows a district to issue general obligation bonds for the project and to pay off that debt using the rental revenue. This bill will allow the colleges to maintain flexibility in this area while preserving the Board's oversight role. It is expected the bill will move forward in the Senate.

Ms. Foy provided a brief summary of AB 616, which defines the qualifications of a school nurse in the K-12 System. Current law directs the Department of Public Instruction to license as a school nurse any registered nurse who is qualified to perform professional nursing services in a public school. Under this bill, a school nurse is defined as a registered nurse who has a bachelor's degree in nursing or who is employed by, or under contract with, a school board, a cooperative educational service agency (CESA), a county children with disabilities education board (CCDEB) or an independent charter school as a nurse on the effective date of the bill. This bill also addresses certain conditions surrounding the administration of drugs to pupils and civil liability immunity. Ms. Foy noted that an amendment to the bill was offered this week that the qualifications of a school nurse would be outlined in Administrative Rule established by the Department of Public Instruction, rather than detailed in Statutes.

Paul Gabriel, Executive Director of the District Boards Association, provided a brief summary of AB 578, tagged the eco-friendly cleaning bill. AB 578 requires the Department of Health Services to promulgate rules requiring cleaning that minimizes adverse effects on human health and the environment in school buildings and other buildings owned by the state or local government. The District Boards Association expressed concern because, while colleges are sensitive to providing a positive environment for staff and students, this would become an unworkable mandate in terms of some of the laboratories and manufacturing process carried out

within the technical colleges, i.e., the printing program areas. The implementation and maintenance would also be extremely costly for the colleges.

Mr. Gabriel briefly summarized AB 641 which creates a postsecondary education tax credit for businesses that pay tuition for an individual to attend a university, college, or technical college and funding for advanced manufacturing skills training. Mr. Gabriel noted that the credit only would relate to tuition tax credits for first-time Associate Degree students only, which would be somewhat limiting. The bill also would require the Board to award at least \$1,500,000 annually to technical college district boards for advanced manufacturing skills training, which would provide a \$1 million increase in Workforce Advancement Training Grants (WATG) awarded to businesses. Other initiatives highlighted in this bill include angel investment tax credits and funding levels of certain grant programs not part of the Technical College System. Ms. Foy stated that the economic downturn has created challenges in getting employers to participate in the WATG program.

L. March 23-24, 2010, Board Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 23-24, 2010, at Western Technical College in La Crosse. The meeting will be held from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, and from 8:30 a.m. to approximately noon on Wednesday.

There being no further business to come before the Board,

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jordan
Recording Secretary