

Minutes of Meeting

Wisconsin Technical College System Board
March 23-24, 2010
Western Technical College
La Crosse, Wisconsin

Tuesday, March 23, 4:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Mary Quinnette Cuene
Stan Davis
Terry Erickson
Ann Greenheck (via conference call)
Debbie Mahaffey for Tony Evers (via conference call)
Eddie Paul
Michael Rosen (via conference call)
JoAnna Richard for Roberta Gassman
Brent Smith
Mark Tyler
Jose Vasquez

Members Absent

Phil Neuenfeldt

System Office Staff Present:

Dan Clancy, Morna Foy, Donna Jordan, Jim Zylstra, Willa Panzer, Annette Severson, Conor Smyth, Nancy Merrill, Bob Dimperio, Kelly Shisler, Debbie Olson, Mike Carney

District/Others Present:

Lee Rasch, Western Technical College
Wade Hackbarth, Western Technical College
Mike Pieper, Western Technical College
Shelley McNeely, Western Technical College
Vicky Brenes, Western Technical College Student Government
John Clark, Mid-State Technical College
Paul Gabriel, District Boards Association
Bob Beaver, District Boards Association
Lori Weyers, Northcentral Technical College
Laurie Borowicz, Northcentral Technical College
Mark Zlevor, Gateway Technical College
Ellen Kirking, Chippewa Valley Technical College
Eric Gage, Wisconsin Student Government
Nick Pasprzak, Wisconsin Student Government/MATC
Dennis Rhodes, Department of Administration
Kjerstin Lang, La Crosse Tribune

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

Donna Jordan read the following open meeting statement: “The March 23-24, 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.

It was moved by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Tyler, that the January 26, 2010, Board minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.

A. Welcome/Report of the Board President

Board President Davis thanked Western Technical College President Rasch for hosting the Board meeting on the La Crosse campus.

Board President Davis asked former Board President Smith to present Vanessa Pickar, former student representative on the Board, with a Resolution of Appreciation. Board Member Smith read the resolution. Ms. Pickar thanked Board members for their recognition of her service on the Board and indicated that it was a pleasure working with the Board and System Office staff. She commended the Technical College System for giving her the strength, confidence and leadership skills necessary as she entered the workforce and became a productive member of society and a property taxpayer supporting the Technical College System. Ms. Pickar stated that while she still has \$40,000 in student loans, the decision to attend a technical college was the least expensive alternative at the time. Student financial aid was not available at the time, as it still is not available to many technical college students. The Technical College System provides an excellent education and provides students with the hands-on skills necessary to succeed in the workplace.

Board President Davis thanked Ms. Pickar for her service. Board President Davis stated that he has been very impressed with the number of students who have stepped up into leadership roles, whether within Wisconsin Student Government or to serve on the Board. The input provided by students is very valuable to the Board.

B. 2010-11 Tuition

Jim Zylstra, Vice President, reported that the Board is required by statute to set uniform tuition charges for the subsequent academic year beginning with the summer session. A Tuition Working Group consisting of four State Board members was established to provide System Office staff guidance for making a recommendation regarding tuition. The Tuition Working Group reviewed historical information regarding tuition for the WTCS, UW System, and at two-

year institutions both nationally and within the Midwest region; property taxes; state aid; effect of tuition increases on students; student financial assistance; and district cost and FTE projections.

Mr. Zylstra stated that the proposed 2010-11 tuition rates represent a 4.5 percent increase over the 2009-10 tuition rates of \$101.40 for postsecondary/vocational adult (\$4.60 increase) and \$136.10 for collegiate transfer (\$6.10 increase). For a full-time student taking 15 credits a semester, the proposed tuition rates would mean an increase of \$69.00 per semester for a postsecondary/vocational adult student and an increase of \$91.50 per semester for a collegiate transfer student. Pursuant to state statute, per credit tuition for non-residents is 150 percent of resident tuition.

Mr. Zylstra noted that under state statute, postsecondary/vocational adult program tuition must recover not less than 14 percent of the statewide average operational costs of providing the program, while collegiate transfer program tuition must recover not less than 31 percent of the statewide average operational costs of providing the program. Under the proposed tuition rates for 2010-11, postsecondary/vocational adult tuition would recover a projected 21.1 percent of operational costs and collegiate transfer tuition would recover a projected 44.9 percent of operational costs.

Board President Davis asked for comments from members of the Tuition Working Group.

Board Member Pauls stated that the Working Group members looked at every possibility and how each would affect the students. The group discussed how students might need to take fewer courses if tuition increased substantially which would extend the amount of time students are in school and the additional time required to get out into the workforce. All other student costs, such as fees, housing, transportation, etc., were also considered. It was felt that the proposed tuition increase would meet the needs of the colleges without saddling the students or taxpayers.

Board Member Tyler stated that it was his personal view that the tuition recommendation is a balance between how to best assess the responsibility to pay. The Working Group was very concerned about the possible additional burden placed on students. Working Group members were in agreement on the most workable alternative.

Board Member Cuene stated that the Working Group did talk about district needs, including double digit enrollment increases and serving the large number of returning adult workers. Districts are stretched to their limit, and they need additional support to provide the services students need to be successful.

Board Member Greenheck commented that tuition is one of the only known factors in a student's budget and accounts for a very small percentage of total student costs.

Board Member Smith commended the working group for recommending the lowest tuition increase since 2003-04.

Mr. Zylstra stated that a survey of the colleges indicated agreement with the proposed tuition increase. The colleges noted that the increase in FTE students has helped resolve some of the issues expressed by the colleges over the past several years, including the fact that state aid had not increased. Working Group discussion centered on maintaining accessibility for students vs. the effect on property taxpayers.

JoAnna Richard questioned the disparity of Wisconsin Higher Educational Grants (WHEG) for technical college students vs. University of Wisconsin (UW) students. Morna Foy noted that WHEG funding is scheduled to increase by 3.5 percent in 2010-11, but the increase for UW students is 6.6 percent. This gap continues to widen. She noted that the Budget Development Committee in its meeting earlier today discussed making a recommendation for an increase in WHEG funding for the next biennium.

Board Member Vasquez questioned the additional \$10 per credit charge for online courses and asked how much revenue is being collected by the colleges for these courses. Mr. Zylstra noted that the number of FTE students taking online courses has increased. While online courses are typically expensive for the colleges to offer, colleges seem to be relatively satisfied with the current fee. When the online fee was first proposed in 2003-04, an initial analysis was conducted of what the colleges were spending to offer the online courses. The \$10 per credit fee was established at that time. The Board annually reaffirms the online fee as part of the tuition discussion,

Deborah Mahaffey noted that one concern of raising tuition is the impact on high schools which pay tuition for those high school students taking technical college credit in the Youth Options program. Many high schools don't have the ability to raise additional revenue to cover the increased costs for the Youth Options programs.

Eric Gage, President of Wisconsin Student Government, expressed concern that from a student standpoint, raising tuition is an easy way out. He stated that the proposed \$4.60 per credit increase quickly adds up for technical college students and adds to their student debt. He asked the Board to consider a 3.5 percent increase instead of the staff recommendation of 4.5 percent.

It was moved by Board Member Smith, seconded by Board Member Greenheck, that, upon the recommendation of the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System, per credit tuition rates for 2010-11 shall be as follows:

Postsecondary/Vocational Adult	\$ 106.00 per credit
Postsecondary/Vocational Adult non-resident addition	\$ 53.00 per credit
Collegiate Transfer	\$ 142.20 per credit
Collegiate Transfer non-resident addition	\$ 71.10 per credit

Motion carried unanimously.

C. Board Policy Revisions

Morna Foy, Vice President, reported that at its January 2010 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. At the meeting, a concern was raised by Board Member Gassman on behalf of Board Member Rosen regarding proposed language in Policy 310 relating to what considerations would be the basis for Board program suspension and discontinuance decisions. Board Member Rosen was concerned that the proposed language was too broad. Other members noted that technical college district boards should be provided maximum flexibility to request and justify changes in their program mix. Action on the proposed policy changes was tabled until the March meeting. Board President Davis also requested that staff solicit Board member comments on the proposed policy changes prior to the March meeting and compile any suggested language changes for consideration by the full Board. No suggestions for modifying the proposed policy language as presented at the January meeting were received.

Ms. Foy summarized the proposed policy changes. Board Policy 305, *Short-Term Technical Diploma Program Approval* and Board Policy 306, *Suspension of Programs*, as stand alone program approval policies would be deleted. Board Policy 310, *Program Approval, Suspension and Discontinuance*, with suggested modifications will address processes and procedures related to the approval, suspension and discontinuation of all WTCS degree and diploma programs. The modification of Board Policy 310 will require districts to establish program arrays in accordance with System program development, approval, suspension and discontinuance processes as detailed in the WTCS Educational Services Manual (ESM) and to delineate the objectives of the Board program approval and discontinuance processes.

Board Member Rosen asked whether any changes to the ESM must be approved by the Board. The Board sets policy, and System Office staff develop the guidance and steps required to ensure implementation of that Board policy. The ESM is one vehicle for communicating the procedures the districts are required to follow to implement Board policies. The process begins at the district level, but the final decisions on compliance lie with the Board.

Ms. Foy reported that also at the January 2010 meeting, the Board gave first consideration to proposed modifications to Policy 312, *Student Organizations Recognition*. The proposed policy changes include reference the U.S. Department of Education list of recognized student organizations and better reflect the collaboration between the System Board and Wisconsin Student Government (WSG). The proposed changes were discussed with current WSG leadership and membership, and since the Board's January meeting, "Wisconsin Student Government" has been specified in the policy. Ms. Foy noted that Wisconsin Student Government has been the recognized student government organization for the Technical College System for the past 20 years. This policy does not relate to any other student clubs centered on specific program areas.

It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Cuene, 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 modifications to Board Policy 310, Program Approval and Board Policy 312, Student Organizations, as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Report of the System President

System President Clancy reported that the 2011-13 Budget Development Committee met for the first time just prior to today's Board meeting. Morna Foy reviewed historical data, revenues, enrollments, costs, student financial aid costs, and other data with committee members. Discussion centered on potential budget initiatives in comparison to items submitted two years previously. A targeted general aids request focusing on priority areas for each of the colleges and how they would use the additional funds was quite effective at that time, and a similar initiative will likely be developed this year. The committee discussed the impact of the services the colleges provide to veterans and how the colleges can better address veterans' needs. Student financial aid was a large discussion item for the group, with committee agreement that a budget initiative would be developed around this topic. The committee's next meeting will be held on May 18, subsequent to the Board meeting. A detailed budget presentation is planned for the June Board meeting which will focus on committee recommendations at that point in time. The Board must act on the 2011-13 budget request at the September meeting.

System President Clancy reported that the System Office is still waiting to receive word on the outcome of the System's application for \$5 million in federal energy dollars to support smart grid workforce training. He noted that the state did receive a \$6 million grant to support state energy sector partnerships. That grant application was submitted by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). A committee under the direction of the Council on Workforce Investment has been formed to oversee the implementation of the grant.

JoAnna Richard, DWD, reported that a majority of the \$6 million grant received from the Department of Labor will be used to contract with the technical colleges to "green up" energy programs. Grant funds of \$1.3 million will be used for curriculum development over a three-year period, as well as supporting increased apprenticeship opportunities in industrial areas. It is anticipated that 4,000 people will be trained to support the workforce needs of the energy industry. The strong partnerships between the technical colleges and the local workforce development agencies will continue.

System President Clancy reported that he will be presenting the keynote address at the State Ambassadors recognition event on Wednesday, April 7, in Madison. This is the 16th year the event has been held through the generous sponsorship of Robert Baird & Associates who provides scholarships to each ambassador. Sixteen local student ambassadors will present their personal testimonials describing their experiences and what a technical college has meant to them and their families. It is an extremely inspirational and heartfelt occasion. System President Clancy encouraged Board members to attend if possible.

System President Clancy reported that the Wisconsin Leadership Development Institute (WLDI) will be held on March 24-26 in Madison. The focus of the institute is to strengthen the leadership skills of its current and future leaders. The System has sponsored the institute for the past 15 years, graduating over 400 individuals during that time. The current class has over 30 participants. System Office staff will provide a variety of sessions on the role of the Board and System Office, budget and policy initiatives, and the various educational initiatives. The District Boards Association will also provide an overview of their role and responsibilities. System President Clancy noted that Mid-State President John Clark was a member of the first graduating WLDI class in 1996. This has been a very beneficial program for the colleges and the System.

E. WTCS Presidents Association

Dr. Lori Weyers, President of the Presidents Association, reported that an advocacy brochure has been developed in conjunction with the Statewide Marketing Consortium to use when talking with legislators, community groups, and others to get the word out on the benefits and successes of the Technical College System. A web site, buildingthenextgeneration.org has also been developed which will give more facts and details concerning this System initiative. In addition to the advocacy piece, the Presidents have agreed to go ahead with updating the socio-economic study done several years ago.

Dr. Weyers reported that results from a recent survey indicate that student placement is still quite high even in these challenging economic times. Preliminary results indicate that 86-87 percent of the graduates are being employed, with 70 percent in their field of study. A large number of students are advancing their education to the baccalaureate degree level. Other items of discussion by the Presidents Association include how to effectively manage high cost programs; continuing to look at additional ways to partner among colleges and others; direct lending for student loans which will become effective July 1, 2010; continued discussion of the issue of diploma mills and for-profit colleges; and the issue of non-accredited institutions and safeguarding transfer agreements.

Board Member Erickson asked Dr. Weyers how the mandated direct lending will affect her college. Dr. Weyers stated that two new support positions will be added in the student services area to assist in processing student loans.

Board Member Tyler asked what factors are considered when determining high cost programs, capital investments or program operating costs. Dr. Weyers responded that many times program requirements, i.e. student to teacher ratio, are controlled by outside sources such as national accrediting agencies. A variety of factors must be factored in when determining high cost programs.

Board Member Vasquez stated that the implications of how the high cost programs are affecting the colleges would be a good discussion topic to be brought before the Board at a later date. Dr. Weyers stated that this topic is very important to the Presidents, and ongoing discussions will include how the colleges can collaborate more effectively to serve the needs of the students.

Board President Davis noted that Agenda Item F would be held until Wednesday's meeting.

The Board recessed at 5:55 p.m.

Wednesday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.

Members Present:

Mary Quinnette Cuene
Stan Davis (left at 9:30 a.m.)
Terry Erickson
Debbie Mahaffey for Tony Evers (via conference call)
Eddie Paul
JoAnna Richard for Roberta Gassman
Brent Smith
Mark Tyler
Jose Vasquez

Members Absent

Ann Greenheck
Phil Neuenfeldt
Mike Rosen

System Office Staff Present:

Dan Clancy, Morna Foy, Donna Jordan, Jim Zylstra, Willa Panzer, Annette Severson, Nancy Merrill, Bob Dimperio, Kelly Shisler, Debbie Olson

Districts/Others Present:

Lee Rasch, Western Technical College
Wade Hackbarth, Western Technical College
Mike Pieper, Western Technical College
Tracy Dryden, Western Technical College
Shelley McNeely, Western Technical College
Patti Balacek, Western Technical College
Rich Westpfahl, Western Technical College
Bill Brendel, Western Technical College
Art Marson, Western Technical College
Connie Hoveland-Belden, Western Technical College
Peg Boudreau, Western Technical College
Linda Schwandt, Western Technical College
Vicky Brenes, Western Technical College Student Government
Ike Rebout, Western Technical College
Karen Knox, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
Joan Senn, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College
Mike Lanser, Lakeshore Technical College

Libby Burmaster, Nicolet Area Technical College
Bettsey Barhorst, Madison Area Technical College
Kaylen Betzig, Waukesha County Technical College
Lori Weyers, Northcentral Technical College
Laurie Borowicz, Northcentral Technical College
Robert Elliott, Northcentral Technical College
Mark Zlevor, Gateway Technical College
Ellen Kirking, Chippewa Valley Technical College
Paul Gabriel, District Boards Association
Bob Beaver, District Boards Association
Eric Gage, Wisconsin Student Government
Dennis Rhodes, Department of Administration
Kjerstin Lang, La Crosse Tribune

Board President Davis called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Donna Jordan read the following open meeting statement: “The March 23-24, 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.

F. WTC District Boards Association

Robert Beaver, co-chair of the District Boards Association Legislative Committee, provided a summary of the agenda for the Association’s spring meeting to be held on April 29-May 1 in Racine. A special session is planned relating to Wisconsin’s proprietary colleges. Mr. Beaver indicated that he represents the Association on the Board’s Budget Development Committee. He stated that the success of the advocacy efforts by the stakeholder groups during the 2009-11 budget was clearly evident at that time, and he hoped that a similar effort would be undertaken to move the System’s budget request forward during this legislative session as well.

Paul Gabriel, Executive Director, indicated that he would address the Board jointly with Morna Foy under the state legislative agenda item

G. Western Technical College Presentation

Western Technical College President Lee Rasch presented an overview of the college’s mission statement, vision, values and goals. Western’s Strategic Plan is currently under review, looking ahead to the Year 2020. Dr. Rasch noted that the number of veterans enrolled at Western has increased from approximately 500 in 2003 to a projected 1,500 for 2011.

Tracy Dryden, Academic Quality Improvement Project (AQIP) Specialist, provided an overview of Western's academic master plan, which includes four key areas: student engagement, program mix, curriculum design and assessment, and teaching and learning. She noted that Western currently has 55 programs under review within the Quality Review Program (QRP). AQIP focuses on student readiness for online and blended classes, faculty/student advising, and diversity. Through student need and program mix analyses, a better understanding will be gained on how to better design the college for the year 2020.

Mike Peiper, Vice President for Finance and Operations, stated that Western is currently completing its 10-year facilities master plan. The student residence hall is the major project in progress. The need to increase building efficiency as well as find ways to reduce costs is very important to the college. Other areas being explored by the college include rebuilding the dam in Sparta to generate electricity for the campus as well as selling excess electricity produced to support the investment and considering the erection of wind turbines in conjunction with Gunderson Lutheran.

President Rasch summarized what lies ahead for the college. He noted that the college is committed to sustainability and is looking at developing new programs in the green energy area. How the college can better provide veterans with the increased services they require is also very important. Provisions included in AB 509, the residence hall bill, are also of significant importance to the college. Dr. Rasch stated that alignment of the college's strategic plan and goals will lead Western Technical College into the year 2020.

Board Member Erickson stated that the image and importance of Western Technical College to the La Crosse community has improved substantially over the past ten years. The contributions by businesses and organizations are a prime example of the support within the community for the college.

H. Futuremakers Partner Award

System President Clancy presented the Board's Futuremakers Partner Award to Kwik Trip Inc. of La Crosse in recognition of the support and partnership with Western Technical College and the Western Foundation since 1988.

Dr. Rasch stated that he was very honored to recommend Kwik Trip, Inc. of La Crosse for the Board's Futuremakers Partner Award. Don Zietlow, CEO of Kwik Trip, and his family have supported many capital projects at Western, including Emax (Education to the Maximum), the inter-campus instructional television system; the Lunda Center and Courtyard projects. Kwik Trip has also provided over \$486,000 in monetary support for student scholarships since 1993. Kwik Trip has partnered with Western since 1999 to distribute the college's degree course schedules throughout the district, saving over \$1 million in printing and postage costs for Western. Kwik Trip has also provided equipment donations, course and program partnering, real-world educational opportunities for students and occupational experience for faculty. Kwik Trip is also one of the largest employers of Western Technical College graduates.

Don Zietlow presented an overview of the Kwik Trip company. The philosophy of Kwik Trip is to provide value for its customers. Mr. Zietlow stated that the company's greatest asset is

its employees, with 40 percent of company profits being returned to its employees. Mr. Zietlow stated that the technical colleges provide valuable training to the state's citizens, and the need will continue, especially as veterans are returning.

Board Member Smith commended Mr. Zietlow and Kwik Trip for their generosity and service to the community.

I. 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, modification and discontinuance requests and the facilities development requests, with the exception of Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's requests to designate Shawano as a single campus site and rental of facilities in Wausaukee, as presented.

It was moved by Board member Smith, seconded by Board Member Pauls, that, upon the recommendation of the Wisconsin Technical College System President, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves Northeast Wisconsin Technical College's requests to designate Shawano as a single campus site and approve the rental of facilities in Wausaukee.

Program Development and Modification

<u>College</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Action</u>
Waukesha County	Automotive Technology T-TEN	Program Scope
Fox Valley	Automotive Tech.GM ASEP	Program Proposal
Southwest Wisconsin	Clinical Laboratory Technician	Program Proposal
Waukesha County	Human Resources	Program Proposal
Gateway	Interpreter Technician	Discontinuance
Gateway	Medication Assistant	Discontinuance
Madison Area	Medical Office Mid-Management	Discontinuance
Moraine Park	IT-Business & Tech. Coordinator	Discontinuance
Western	Diagnostic Medical Sonography	Discontinuance

Facilities Development Requests

Chippewa Valley Technical College – Remodeling on the Eau Claire Campus to develop a new student commons at a cost of \$1,602,000.

Gateway Technical College – Remodeling on the Kenosha Campus for health occupations programs at a cost of \$500,000.

Gateway Technical College – Remodeling of the Student commons on the Racine Campus at a cost of \$518,000.

Madison Area Technical College – Construction of additional parking on the Truax Campus at a cost of \$1,500,000.

Milwaukee Area Technical College – Rental of facilities in Milwaukee at an annual cost of \$135,000.

Milwaukee Area Technical College – Construction / installation of a wind turbine on the Mequon Campus at a cost of \$15,000.

Milwaukee Area Technical College – Remodeling for the Culinary Arts program on the Downtown Campus at a cost of \$320,000.

Moraine Park Technical College – Construction of a building addition on the Beaver Dam Campus for Student Services at a cost of \$1,122,800.

Moraine Park Technical College – Construction of additional parking on the Beaver Dam Campus at a cost of \$197,700.

Moraine Park Technical College – Remodeling on the West Bend Campus for Nursing programs at a cost of \$745,000.

Northcentral Technical College – Acquisition of the Spencer Campus through donation.

Northcentral Technical College – Acquisition of 1.5 acres of land adjacent to the Wittenberg Campus through donation.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College – Designate the Shawano Campus as a single campus site.

Northeast Wisconsin Technical College – Rental of facilities in Wausaukee at no cost.

Waukesha County Technical College – Remodeling on the Pewaukee Campus for a child care center at a cost of \$475,000.

Waukesha County Technical College – Rental of facilities in Waukesha to expand the Auto Collision Repair program at an annual increased cost of \$19,500.

Western Technical College – Acquisition of land in La Crosse at a cost of \$175,000.

Motion #1 above carried unanimously.

Motion #2 above carried, Board Member Cuene abstained.

J. FY 2010-11 General Purpose Revenue, Carl Perkins Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, and Indian Gaming Receipts Projects

It was moved by Board Member Vasquez, seconded by Board Member Smith, that, upon the recommendation of the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approves funding for the FY 2010-11 General Purpose Revenue, Carl Perkins Act, Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and Indian Gaming Receipts projects, with the exception of projects submitted by Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, as presented.

It was moved by Board Member Vasquez, seconded by Board Member Smith, that upon the recommendation of the President of the Wisconsin Technical College System, the Wisconsin Technical College System Board approved funding for the FY 2010-11 General Purpose Revenue, Carl Perkins Act and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act projects submitted by Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, as presented.

Willa Panzer, Associate Vice President, provided an overview of the 2010-11 grants process. She reported that in preparation for this grant cycle, a new application process was implemented and communicated to districts through a statewide grant guidelines meeting, specialized training was provided for new grant managers and plan coordinators, staff continued to involve outside reviewers in all competitive grant areas, and the post-award process continues to be under review and improvement. Ms. Panzer noted that a summary table was provided in Board member folders outlining each of the grant areas along with staff recommendations. Ms. Panzer provided an overview, purpose, the amount of funds available, and the number of grant awards recommended in each grant category. A summary of staff recommendations is noted below:

General Purpose Revenue (GPR):

38 Health Care Education projects totaling \$5,395,299
16 New and Expanding Occupations projects totaling \$1,504,100
16 Basic Skills projects totaling \$2,515,000
16 Adult Literacy projects totaling \$559,600
17 Displaced Homemaker projects totaling \$805,300
16 Faculty Development projects totaling \$786,700
14 Minority Student Participation and Retention projects totaling \$583,300
16 Transition Services for Individuals with Disabilities projects totaling \$378,200
3 Advanced Chauffeur Training projects totaling \$189,100
1 School-to-Work for At-Risk Youth project for \$282,100
2 Work-Based Learning for Tribal Colleges projects for \$594,000

Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act:

18 projects for Strengthening CTE Programs totaling \$1,927,359
8 Student Success projects totaling \$6,848,512
18 projects for Assuring Participation in NTO Training & Employment totaling \$717,198
1 project for Promoting High School to College Transitions for \$29,255
1 Criminal Offenders project for \$115,300
16 Tech Prep projects totaling \$2,049,966

Adult Education and Family Literacy Act:

- 16 Adult Basic Education Comprehensive Program projects totaling \$4,170,180
- 13 Adult Basic Education Outreach Program projects totaling \$626,970
- 13 projects for Institutionalized Individuals totaling \$533,010
- 21 Integrated English Literacy and Civics Education projects totaling \$407,920

Board Member Vasquez asked whether the Board has any influence on how the various General Purpose Revenue categories are determined. He expressed concern with the potential administrative cost of two separate grant areas, i.e., adult literacy and basic skills. It would make sense to combine some of individual categories.

System President Clancy stated that most of the GPR grant categories have separate appropriations as determined by state statutes. There is not a lot of flexibility to change the categories without legislative action. There is some flexibility in the New and Emerging Occupations area to move dollars around based on program emphasis. Also, many of the categorical aid programs have a strong constituent support. System President Clancy stated that he would ask the Budget Development Committee to look at how categorical aids are structured, along with the potential of including a request for increased GPR dollars.

Board Member Tyler asked whether there was any requirement of the Perkins dollars allocated to the Criminal Offenders program that the Department of Corrections must work collaboratively with the technical colleges. System President Clancy stated that most of the correctional facilities have their own instructors, but the instructors must meet technical college teaching standards and be certified by the System Office.

Board Member Cuene stated that it would be helpful in the future if the Board could receive prior to the meeting a listing of which grants are formula based and those that are competitive in nature. Ms. Panzer stated that this would be done.

Motion #1 above carried unanimously.

Motion #2 above carried, Board Member Cuene abstained.

K. Teaching and Learning: Embedded Technical Diplomas and WTCS Pathway Certificates

Annette Severson, Associate Vice President, provided an overview on how the System is focusing on the development of embedded technical diplomas and pathway certificates so that students can more easily access occupational training to fit their workforce needs. This is consistent with the WTCS Board's Strategic Direction, *Promote pathways to address Wisconsin's need for a qualified workforce*. Ms. Severson stated that the process and criteria used to develop the embedded technical diplomas and pathway certificates emphasize the RISE model of skills acquisition and credentialing. The goal is to provide Wisconsinites with portable credentials which are responsive to the labor force and the changing economic conditions. The proposed recommendations are the result of a series of discussions over the past 18 months with various technical college faculty and staff.

Ms. Severson stated that career pathways are a way of organizing college level occupational training as a sequence of certificates that leads adult learners in attainable steps toward better jobs and a degree or technical diploma. Work on career pathways began with the Joyce Foundation's shifting gears proposal and RISE initiative, an important partnership between the Department of Workforce Development (DWD), the Technical College System (WTCS), and the University of Wisconsin Center on Workforce Strategies (COWS). Career pathways help students and employers match skills, and are vital to helping the state's workforce grow in sustainable living wage jobs.

Implementing career pathways in Wisconsin's technical colleges require three strategies: career ladders, embedded technical diplomas, and WTCS pathway certificates. Ms. Severson highlighted several current career ladder programs that have been adopted by the Board. Ms. Severson outlined the two-step process for the imbedded technical diploma credentials.

Ms. Severson noted that the imbedded technical diploma and pathway certificates are different than the local program certificates that many technical colleges currently have. She noted that the embedded technical diploma and pathway certificates are comprised of a sequence of courses that are already contained within a State Board-approved program, with the end result being a Career Ladder.

Board Member Tyler stated that one of the challenges is the need to get more employers involved in the need for these credentials and the benefits they can provide to their companies. JoAnna Richard stated that more development is currently being seen in this area to get feedback from industry. Wisconsin has served as a model for developing a career pathway model through the collaborative efforts of WTCS and DWD.

L. State and Federal Legislation

Nancy Merrill, Policy Advisor, reported that the House of Representatives recently passed the *Health Care and Education Affordability Reconciliation Act*, a modified version of the American Graduation Initiative and Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. A written summary was provided in Board member folders.

Morna Foy and Paul Gabriel, Executive Director of the District Boards Association, provided a summary of state legislation affecting the Technical College System. Ms. Foy provided a brief summary of AB 702, with companion bill SB 304, relating to the veterans' tuition reimbursement program and AB 781 relating to veterans' tuition remission expansion. Ms. Foy noted that while it is difficult to estimate the financial implications to the System since it depends on how many veterans choose to use the proposed benefits or and when they use them, it is estimated that it could cost the System from \$2 - \$60 million. Spouses of veterans and their children are also eligible to receive benefits as determined by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Foy noted that it is likely that AB 781 will pass out of committee and move on to the Joint Committee on Finance. While legislators want to provide needed resources to serve returning veterans, they are now acknowledging the very high costs associated with doing so.

Paul Gabriel noted that a summary of all state legislation affecting the WTCS is posted on the Boards Association website. The positions as stated under each of the bills represent the views of the District Boards Association.

Mr. Gabriel briefly summarized SB 431 and AB 624, dubbed the “diploma mill bills. The bills require that any postsecondary institution operating in the State of Wisconsin which uses the term university or college must meet certain accreditation standards. The Senate bill has passed and moved on to the Assembly. It is likely that the bill will pass.

Mr. Gabriel reported that AB 745, companion bill SB 525, would limit or prohibit activities related to credit card marketing and card sponsorship by colleges and universities. They also would mandate that colleges and universities require some students to complete financial literacy training. A major concern is that the technical colleges would be required to provide the financial literacy training without additional funding. The bills are still in committee.

The residence hall bill, AB 509, companion bill SB 378, 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. The bill is currently pending in the Senate.

Ms. Foy noted that the current legislative floor session is scheduled to end the week of April 19th. It is hoped that the above mentioned bills, as well as several others of importance to the System, will be acted upon before the conclusion of the session.

M. May 18, 2010, State Board Meeting

The Board will meet for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 18 2010, at the System Office in Madison. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board,

It was moved by Board Member Vasquez, seconded by Board Member Cuene, that the March 23-24, 2010, Board meeting adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Jordan
Recording Secretary