

**MINUTES OF MEETING  
WISCONSIN TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM (WTCS) BOARD  
JULY 13-14, 2021  
NICOLET AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE**

**Tuesday, July 13, 2021**

Members Present: Quincey Daniels, Jr., Douglas Holton, Sr., Becky Lezvow, Terry McGowan (Virtual), John W. Miller, Rodney Pasch, Amy Pechacek (Virtual), Cooper Richason, Kelly Tourdot, S. Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Stephen Willett (Virtual), Mary Williams.

System Office Staff Present: Dan Arneson, Judy Barbian, Terese Craig, Monique Currie, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Colleen McCabe, Dan Scanlon, Lenard Simpson, Conor Smyth, Brandon Trujillo, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Angie Lawrence, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Sara Rogers, Employ Milwaukee; Susan May, Fox Valley Technical College; Megan Bahr, Stacy Riley, Gateway Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Alec Effinger, Kate Ferrel, Richard Nelson, Terry Rutlin, Matthew Schur, Anne Wiedmaier, Nicolet Area Technical College; Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Jeff Rafn, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; Linda Conlon, Oneida County Health Department; R. Paul Buhr, Rabur Holsteins; Jason Wood, Southwest Wisconsin Technical College; Eric Williams, UW-Madison; Richard Barnhouse, Waukesha County Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; John Will, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College; Ann Ilagan, Wisconsin Student Government.

**Board President Lezvow called the meeting to order at 4:37 pm. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.**

Board President Lezvow recognized Ann Ilagan of Wisconsin Student Government (WSG), who joined the meeting on behalf of WSG. Ms. Ilagan shared that WSG has convened remotely throughout the pandemic and will be meeting in August to set goals and new priorities to increase participation in the post-pandemic year.

Board President Lezvow recognized Kate Ferrel, new President of Nicolet College as of July 1, who welcomed the Board.

**ITEM A: Approval of May 18, 2021, Meeting Minutes**

**It was moved by Board Member Williams, seconded by Board Member Tourdot, that the May 18, 2021, meeting minutes be approved. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ITEM B: November 2021 and March 2022 Meeting Location Changes**

Due to Blackhawk Technical College's significant construction projects as a result of its successful referendum, Blackhawk requested to delay its turn to host the Board until March 2022, with Southwest Tech agreeing to host the Board in November 2021. Please note the date for the Madison College-

hosted meeting in September 2021 was incomplete for Item B. It should read that the meeting will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 14-15.

**It was moved by Board Member Holton, seconded by Board Member Tyler to approve the meeting location changes for November 2021 and March 2022, including the date correction on the schedule for September 2021. Motion carried unanimously.**

### ITEM C: Report of the Board President

The June and July Board of Regents reports will be shared at the September meeting.

Board President Levzow welcomed the Board back to the first in-person meeting since the beginning of the pandemic and thanked the Board, WTCS leaders and staff, the colleges, District Boards Association and WSG for their efforts while meeting virtually.

On May 20, Board President Levzow joined System President Foy and several technical college presidents for a legislative hearing on proposed bills that would amend state statutes pertaining to the System's ability to offer Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degrees. Levzow also recently attended her final University of Wisconsin (UW) System Board of Regents meeting, as her term as WTCS Board President concludes.

Board President Levzow recognized and thanked Board Member Richason for his service to the Board since May 2019.

### ITEM D: Report of the System President

System President Foy welcomed new Board Members to their first in-person meeting, including Dr. Quincey Daniels, Department of Workforce Development Secretary-designee Amy Pechacek, UW Regent John W. Miller, and State Superintendent Jill Underly.

System President Foy thanked Board Member Richason for his two-year term on the Board. Foy also noted that the System has experienced significant transition in the ranks of technical college presidents, including:

- Kate Ferrel succeeding Richard Nelson at Nicolet;
- Jeannie Worden succeeding Lori Weyers at Northcentral;
- Chris Matheny succeeding Susan May at Fox Valley;
- Sunem Beaton-Garcia succeeding Bruce Barker at Chippewa Valley; and
- Rich Barnhouse succeeding Kaylen Betzig earlier in the year.

Foy noted that the System office has successfully implemented a new telecommuting policy in accordance with Department of Administration guidance. Hybrid meetings, reduced travel and effective use of technology to enhance connections will be the new norm.

Foy also shared that in February, the System will deliver a professional development opportunity for college leaders, faculty and staff. The C3 (Collaborative College Connections) conference will take place at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells and, as with all meetings and events going forward, will include a virtual attendance option.

### ITEM E: Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

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

The Summer quarterly DBA meeting is July 15-17, hosted by Mid-State Technical College in Stevens Point. The in-service presentation focuses on Presidential evaluations and legislative updates, with a tour of Aspirus and Mid-State.

Betty Bruski Mallek, Mid-State Technical College Trustee, will assume the role of Association President following the July meeting.

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

Dr. Roger Stanford, President of Western Technical College and of the Association, provided a brief update on recent activities of the Association.

Dr. Stanford thanked Dr. Mondeik for her leadership of the association through the pandemic. New officers were elected with Dr. Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College as Vice Chair and Dr. Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College as Secretary. Additionally, with significant turnover among college presidents, each new president is assigned a mentor from the Presidents' Association. The presidents will meet in person in September.

New Committee Chairs have been appointed: President Bonnie Baerwald will continue to chair the Incarcerated Individuals Task Force; President Jeff Rafn will chair the Transfer Improvement Task Force; President Jack Daniels will chair the Workforce Diversity Task Force; and President Jason Wood will chair the Legislative Committee (Committee of the Whole).

Board President Levzow presented the WTCS Board's Futuremaker Partner award to the Oneida County Health Department for its close working relationship with Nicolet College during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Linda Conlon, Director and Health Officer for the Department, accepted the award and applauded Nicolet's actions during throughout the pandemic.

#### **ITEM G: 2021-2025 Strategic Directions Update**

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled until Wednesday.

#### **ITEM H: Election of Officers**

Board President Levzow called for nominations for President.

Board Member Williams nominated Board Member Pasch for President. Board Member Daniels nominated Board Member Holton for President. Board Member Williams requested secret ballots.

Board Member Pasch received eight votes; Board Member Holton received five votes. Board Member Pasch will serve as Board President for a one-year term.

Board President Levzow called for nominations for Board Vice President.

Board Member Pasch nominated Board Member Holton for Board Vice President. Board Member McGowan nominated Board Member Tyler for Board Vice President. Board Member Williams requested secret ballots.

Board Member Tyler received nine votes; Board Member Holton received four votes. Board Member Tyler will serve as Board Vice President for a one-year term.

Board President Levzow called for nominations for Board Secretary.

Board Member Tyler nominated Board Member Holton for Board Secretary. Board Member Williams nominated Board Member Tourdot for Board Secretary. Board Member Williams requested secret ballots.

Board Member Holton received nine votes; Board Member Tourdot received four votes. Board Member Holton will serve as Board Secretary for a one-year term.

System President Foy thanked Board Member Lezvow for her service as Board President and thanked the Board Members for being available for Board elections.

**It was moved by Board Member Richason, seconded by Board Member Williams, to recess the meeting until Wednesday, July 15, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting recessed at 6:17 pm.

### **Wednesday, July 15, 2021**

Members Present: Quincey Daniels, Jr., Douglas Holton, Sr., Becky Lezvow, John W. Miller, Rodney Pasch, Cooper Richason, Kelly Tourdot, S. Mark Tyler, Jill Underly, Stephen Willett, Mary Williams.

Members Absent: Terry McGowan, Amy Pechacek.

System Office Staff Present: Dan Arneson, Judy Barbian, Terese Craig, Monique Currie, Julie Drake, Morna Foy, Mark Johnson, Sarah Kavanaugh, Tou Ya Khang, Ben Konruff, Colleen Larsen, Alyssa Layton, Colleen McCabe, Katy Pettersen, Brenda Powles, Anna Richter, Michelle Rudman, Dan Scanlon, Chrystal Seeley-Schreck, Lenard Simpson, Conor Smyth, Brandon Trujillo, Ann Westrich, Jim Zylstra.

District/Others Present: Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Technical College; Sunem Beaton-Garcia, Chippewa Valley Technical College; Vernon Jung, Angie Lawrence, Layla Merrifield, District Boards Association; Megan Bahr, Stacy Riley, Gateway Technical College; Paul Carlsen, Lakeshore Technical College; Jack Daniels, III, Sylvia Ramirez, Cody White, Madison Area Technical College; Shelly Mondeik, Mid-State Technical College; Vicki Martin, Milwaukee Area Technical College; Bonnie Baerwald, Moraine Park Technical College; Kate Ferrel, Lisa Hunt, Al Javoroski, Jeff Labs, Dianne Lazear, Richard Nelson, Kris Peeters, Brenda Peltier, Toni Van Doren, Erika Warning-Meyer, Anne Wiedmaier, Laura Wind-Norton, Lisa Young, Nicolet Area Technical College; Robert Elliott, Jeannie Worden, Northcentral Technical College; Mary Jo Tilot, Northeast Wisconsin Technical College; R. Paul Buhr, Rabur Holsteins; Eric Williams, UW-Madison; Richard Barnhouse, Waukesha County Technical College; Roger Stanford, Western Technical College; Sharon Wendt, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction; John Will, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College; Ann Ilagan, Wisconsin Student Government.

**Board President Pasch called the meeting to order at 9:32 am. Julie Drake read the open meeting statement and roll call indicated that a quorum was present.**

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

It was moved by Board Member Willett, seconded by Board Member Richason that the Board approve the program development, facilities requests and interim board appointments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Holton requested dates for program approvals for the programs being discontinued, to measure how long these programs have been in effect. Additionally, he requested post-construction

reports on approved facilities requests and, specifically, whether the companies contracted hire WTCS graduates.

### ITEM G: 2021-2025 Strategic Directions Update

WTCS Director of Strategic Directions Conor Smyth provided an update on the 2021-2025 Strategic Directions, tabled from the Tuesday, July 13 meeting.

The WTCS 2021-2025 Strategic Directions were approved by the Board at the November 2020 meeting. Mr. Smyth thanked Board Member Levzow for her leadership, along with the Board Members who were part of the Board's work group.

System President Foy shared that data is continuously analyzed to improve equity in access and outcomes for all technical college students.

The Board recessed for a ten-minute break, reconvening at 10:42 am.

### ITEM J: Blackhawk Technical College – Project Review – Construction of Out Buildings (Scenario City) at the Public Safety Training & Transportation Studies Center on the Main Campus in Janesville

WTCS Facilities Director Dan Scanlon provided the Board with an overview of the Blackhawk Technical College project review for construction of out buildings at the Public Safety Training and Transportation Studies Center on the main campus in Janesville.

**It was moved by Board Member Tyler, seconded by Board Member Richason to grant approval to the Blackhawk Technical College district to construct Out Buildings (Scenarios City) at the Vehicle Operations Track at the Public Safety Training & Transportation Training Center on the Main Campus in Janesville at a cost of \$3,387,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

### ITEM K: State Grant and Federal Perkins Grant Guidelines

WTCS Grants Manager Tou Ya Khang provided an overview of the 2022-2023 state and federal grant guidelines recommendations, which are aligned with Board priorities.

Updates and changes that have been made to the guidelines include:

- updated the purpose, funds available, objectives and allowable activities for each grant category as needed;
- added more information about the WTCS Apply Portal;
- updated the appropriations and purpose numbers; and
- updated application due dates and WTCS contacts.

**It was moved by Board Member Richason, seconded by Board Member Willett, that the Board adopt the funding categories for State of Wisconsin and Perkins V Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant programs for fiscal year 2022-2023, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

## ITEM L: Teaching and Learning – Integrated Education and Training (IET)

WTCS Education Director for Performance Analysis & Continuous Improvement Ben Konruff and Nicolet College Director of Adult Education Lisa Young provided the Board an overview of IET.

IET programs combine Adult Education with workforce preparation and training for a specific occupation or occupational area for the purpose of educational and career advancement.

The IET approach:

- is efficient for students;
- accelerates economic mobility;
- enhances student outcomes; and
- serves as an on-ramp to postsecondary programs.

## ITEM M: Legislative Update

WTCS Executive Vice President Jim Zylstra and DBA Executive Director Layla Merrifield provided an update on the State Budget, which was signed by Governor Evers in early July.

The Legislature substantially reduced overall education spending from the Governor’s proposal, while eliminating a number of proposed revenue enhancements. In part, the Joint Finance Committee cited unprecedented sums received from Washington in the form of COVID relief as the rationale for reduced state education spending. Despite a \$4.4 billion surplus as of May 2021, legislators focused on tax relief.

A hearing was held on May 20 on proposed bills that would eliminate the need for UW Board of Regent approval for technical college Associate of Arts and Associate of Science programs. Such programs would still require college and WTCS Board approval. A number of technical college presidents testified before the committee, as did System President Foy. WTCS submitted more than 200 letters of support from throughout the state (employers, citizens, students and others). The Senate has not acted on the legislation.

Policy Advisor Brandon Trujillo provided an overview of changes to the federal Pell Grant program and simplification of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

## ITEM N: Announcements/Adjourn

The next meeting of the Board will be held in-person September 14-15, at Madison Area Technical College in Madison.

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Drake  
Recording Secretary