Wisconsin Student Government

Wisconsin Technical College Advocacy Group

Established 1972

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**WSG January 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Northcentral Technical College**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Technical College** |  | **Technical College** |  |
| **Blackhawk** | X | **Moraine Park** | **X** |
| **Chippewa Valley** | X | **Nicolet** | **X** |
| **Fox Valley** | X | **Northcentral** | **X** |
| **Gateway** | X | **Northeast WI** | **X** |
| **Lakeshore** |  | **Northwood** |  |
| **Madison** | X | **Southwest** | **X** |
| **Mid-State** | X | **Waukesha** |  |
| **Milwaukee Area** | X | **Western** | **X** |

* **10:05 AM: Call to Order and Roll** 
  + Katrina called the in-person meeting at Northcentral Technical College to order. John, AFO called role. The results of the role call are shown in the chart above.
* **10:08 AM: Welcome from NTC – Dr. Darren Ackley, Vice President of Learning** 
  + Dr. Darren Ackley, the Vice President of Learning at NTC, welcomed the membership to NTC and gave a few points about NTC. He explained that NTC was the second-largest educational institution in terms of geographic range, covering over 5000 square miles, making it a priority to make it easier for students to access education. Ackley acknowledged W.S.G.'s priority of increasing funding for O.E.R. and commended the alignment of this priority with the W.T.C.S. In addition, Ackley emphasized the importance of making student-focused decisions that would enhance student success and highlighted the significant role of reducing education costs. He noted that the cost of textbooks could be as much as tuition, making it a significant barrier for many students. Ackley mentioned that NTC has been working with a publisher, Cengage, which offered a textbook subscription service for $100 per semester and had helped save students $4 million over the past four years. Ackley also highlighted the importance of providing financial aid for students who were unable to take more than six credits per semester, allowing them to continue to improve their skills and support theirfamilies. He expressed his appreciation for the advocacy work done by WSG.
* **Approval of Agenda & November 18 Minutes**
  + Technical difficulties prevented the updated agenda from being distributed to the membership and the approval of the agenda was postponed. Katie explained the changes that were made to the original agenda that was sent to the organization.
    - 10:19 AM: Katrina entertained motion to approve minutes. NTC made the motion, Madison seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
* **10:20 AM: Brandon Trujillo – WTCS Policy Advisor**
  + Brandon gave a brief introduction for those who don’t know him including his role in the WTCS Board and what he would be covering in his presentation.
  + The first part of Brandon’s presentation was a proposed increase in tuition. Brandon, Explained the proposal and told the membership about the tuition work group and that every year he provides an update work group. He then opened the floor up for discussion so that student’s voices could be heard in the update.

**Tuition Discussion**

* + - Ryan - Southwest, mentioned that as a recipient of the Pell Grant his biggest concern is ensuring that the cost of attending college is lower than the amount that is received from the Pell Grant.
    - Dylan, asked if anyone above Brandon would be able to get more specific with the tuition increases and have a report sent out to students.
    - Hope – Blackhawk, Mentioned that she is worried about the increase in general. A 1%-2% increase may seem marginal at first but multiplied by 3 credit-hours by 3 classes, it adds up.
    - Tara – Midstate, mentioned that she wanted additional context as to what the money would be going towards.
      * Brandon, explained that tuition increases would be used to keep things the same as costs have only been increasing.
    - North Central Tech, asked if the state’s budget surplus could be used to offset the cost of tuition.
      * Brandon, mentioned that the system office is asking for 75 million dollars to help offset the rising costs that come with inflation and that he would bring the question to the board.
    - Katrina, asked if the WTCS is considering adjusting financial aid in response to inflation.
      * Brandon, mentioned that those conversations are happening on the board but he would bring her comment to the board.
    - Tara – Midstate, mentioned that the discussion of potential tuition increases has made the necessity for OER implementation at the college level even more obvious and she would like to see colleges do their own due diligence regarding the tuition increases. She also recommended that the membership should break for a discussion with their advisors.
    - Elijah - Madison Gov, mentioned that each college has individual fees. Asked if tuition work group pays attention to the fees at each college. Gave a breakdown of fees for Madison college. Mentioned that they believed that some fees were increased based on the tuition base rate and could result in a potentially larger increase.
    - Virtual student - Gateway, doesn’t believe that a slight tuition increase will affect him that much, but the cost of books do hurt him a lot.
    - NTC – asked if tuition goes up – will the lifetime allowance go up for the Pell grant or will the amount paid out from the Pell grant increase.
    - Brandon – Explained that if the amount that a student is paid from the Pell grant increases, it won’t affect the lifetime allowance. He also mentioned that the amount doesn’t affect eligibility, it’s more about the amount of time a student is receiving.
  + 10:50 AM: Midstate made a motion to meet with advisors for 10 minutes, Nicolet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the membership broke for discussion.
  + 11:03 AM: After returning from discussion with advisors, Midstate made a motion to give the following recommendation to the tuition work group: Based on the discussion had at the January 13th Meeting at Northcentral Technical College, WSG recommends not to allow the tuition increase to exceed 1.4%. Madison seconded the motion.
    - Discussion on the motion
      * NWTC - due to inflation a 1.5% increase does not seem unreasonable because prices will most likely have to increase in the future so they may increase by a larger percentage in a shorter period. Any years that a college does not increase their rate to keep up with inflation, they will be losing money.
      * SWTC - recommends not setting a specific percentage goal and instead asks that it does not exceed benefits of the Pell Grant
      * Midstate - mentioned that the Pell grant does takes tuition increases into account.
      * CVTC - mentioned that they are in favor of increasing tuition by 1-2% to keep valuable employees in our tech schools.
    - The motion passed after a roll call vote where there were 7 ayes and 6 nays. The official recommendation reads:

**Based on the discussion had at the January 13th Meeting at Northcentral Technical College, WSG recommends that the tuition work group not allow the tuition increase to exceed 1.4%.**

* + - Katrina will write the official recommendation to the tuition work group reflecting the discussion and passed motion.
  + Updates
    - Brandon presented a summary of the federal omnibus appropriation bill provisions impacting the WTCS, including a $10 million increase in childcare access. He discussed the 2023 spring primary election and the Joint Finance Committee, the governor's ongoing listening sessions, including one in Superior and Eau Claire, were mentioned and resources were provided to members to find their representatives.
  + WSG Bylaws & OER
    - Brandon asked the membership to approach him during breaks or after the meeting if they were interested in working on the organization's bylaws, including the incorporation of a succession plan for the executive board.
    - Brandon also mentioned that WSG was looking for students to talk about their personal experiences with OER at the Legislative seminar in February.
* **11:33 AM: Approval of Agenda** 
  + After the updated agenda was sent to the membership, Midstate made a motion to approve the agenda. Blackhawk seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.
* **11:47 AM: Reports**
  + Katrina entertained a motion to break for 3 minutes. Midstate made the motion, Western seconded, the motion passed unanimously.
  + **President’s Report – Katrina Willis**
    - Katrina will attend the WTCS board meeting on 1/17/23 and give an update at the February meeting.
    - Katrina also introduced the new contract manager, Mailia, a second-year student at Moraine Park, wife, mother of 2, and application developer**.**
  + **AFO Report – John Krueger**
    - John briefly discussed the financial status of WSG. 2 checks were deposited, totaling $758.96, with a checking account balance of $19,242.56 and savings balance of $14,937.87, for a total of $34,180.43 in assets.
    - John discussed his vision for a fundraising committee.
      * Madison made a motion to table discussion on the committee indefinitely due to lack of foundation and time constraints. Mid-State requested that the motion be amended to “Table discussion on establishing a fundraising committee until the April meeting”. Madison accepted the amendment. Midstate seconded the amended motion.
      * The motion passed with 2 nays.
      * John asked what sort of foundation the membership would like to see. Madison expressed their concern that an undertaking like this could fundamentally change what W.S.G. is and that they would like to see a succession plan. Mid-State and Katrina mentioned that they would like to see a written business plan.
  + **Resource Director’s Report – Katie Brooks**
    - Katie provided several updates on the legislative seminar, including the availability of registration forms, which she had sent out the previous night. She also mentioned that she was working with Katrina and Brandon to secure a representative from the state office to attend the seminar, also noting that the agenda would be very similar to previous years. She also announced that Sahil had confirmed as the keynote and that Dr. Foy confirmed as a speaker for O.E.R. Katie then presented the 1st Draft of the 2022-2023 WSG Budget and invited Brandon to give an update on the position paper. Brandon mentioned that he had been working with students from Milwaukee and the position paper would be presented at the Sunday meeting before the legislative seminar.
    - Katie invited any of the legislative committees to provide updates on what they were working on.
      * Special Events/Capitol Visits Committee:
        + Scheduling a capitol tour on Sunday and the photo will be taken at the capitol building at 9:30am on Tuesday.
      * Promotion Committee
        + Asked for input from the membership on what they would prefer for an item that would be given to participants.

* **12:23 PM: – Lunch** 
  + Katrina entertained a motion to break for lunch, Midstate made the motion. Nicolet seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and the membership went to chow town.
* **1:18 PM: Governor’s Updates**
  + Governors from each of the colleges in attendance gave updates on recent events at each of their campuses. Details will be included at the end of the minutes.
* 1:39 PM: Nicolet made a motion to expand NWTC’s budget to allow them to provide additional items for legislative seminar participants. Fox valley seconded. There was 1 Nay and 1 abstention. The motion passed.
* 1:42 PM: Fox valley motioned to amend the agenda to add further discussion about tuition, NWTC seconded, the vote was a roll call vote with 6 ayes and 6 nays. The tie breaking decision was left to Katrina who voted against adding additional tuition discussion.
  + - Brandon further explained that the vote earlier is simply a recommendation to the work group. He also encouraged the membership to email him if they had additional concerns or with information as to why they voted against the recommendation.

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* **1:47 PM: NTC- Video Presentation- Regional Campus videos**
  + The membership watched 3 videos on the NTC regional Campuses including the West Region, East Region, and Farm.
* **2:00 PM: Legislative Representative Visit – Representative Patrick Snyder**
  + Katrina introduced Representative Snyder and thanked him for his work supporting WSG and all 16 technical colleges in offering liberal arts programs, as well as for his initiatives for children and families.
  + Representative Snyder mentioned that the annual report on children's mental health had been released that day, highlighting the importance of promoting mental health. He emphasized the significance of technical colleges in providing opportunities for both traditional and non-traditional students to either pursue a four-year degree or enter the workforce with a two-year degree. He also mentioned the ongoing efforts to expand the number of colleges eligible for federal Pell grants beyond the current six. The Representative then opened the floor to questions from the members.
  + The discussion began with Northcentral asking for the Representative's thoughts on educating the incarcerated population and reducing recidivism. Representative Snyder shared that he is involved in a bill that aims to expunge the records of those who made mistakes in their youth, allowing them to pursue careers, and discussed a successful collaboration between NTC and the Marathon County jail, where 15 inmates completed a welding program without becoming repeat offenders. Midstate then asked about developments in increasing childcare options for students trying to go back to school. Other topics discussed included Amtrak Connects Us, OER, PFAS, new farming techniques to protect groundwater, and the Representative's passion for education. The Representative also addressed questions about legislation to improve broadband accessibility.
* **2:46 PM: Adjournment**
  + Midstate motion to adjourn, western seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned.

**Governor Reports**

Blackhawk

Blackhawk Technical College hosted several events and activities between meetings. In honor of Native American Heritage Month, a documentary screening was held. The Winter Carnival was hosted by the student organizations and student government and included a visit from Santa. A movie night featuring "The Muppets Christmas" was also organized. The students made holiday cards for a local assisted living center and held a "Ho-Ho-Ho" event, in addition to other carnivals and activities. During finals week, they held a "Notes with Kindness" event in the Ideas Room, where anyone could drop off or pick up notes with kind messages. Throughout the week, therapy dogs were also available on campus, and students could participate in activities such as BBQ games, yard games, and grab-and-go movie kits. The school also provided a study break with coffee and coloring books. Other events included Build-a-Plush sales at all campuses, a fundraiser at Lambeau Field by the Medical Imaging Club, and a trip to the National Students and Veterans Conference in Florida by the Veterans Club. Blackhawk Technical College held their first Fall Graduation ceremony at the new conference center on campus and hosted a fundraiser with the Red Cross organized by the Multicultural Alliances.

Chippewa Valley

Chippewa Valley had a successful final week, during which they had therapy dog and massage chairs for the students. Throughout January, they plan to focus on strengthening the student association and finalizing the review of the last semester, while preparing for the upcoming events in the next semester. The midterm madness cornhole tournaments were announced as a future event. Additionally, they plan to host their biggest event yet, a recognition banquet, to honor all the clubs and advisors and specific nominees.

Fox Valley

Fox Valley has announced the completion of their event calendar for the next two semesters, which includes bringing nationally accredited speakers, entertainers, and engagement programs to their student body. Their team has also chosen a new manager for student development engagement and conduct. In their previous presentation, they introduced their inquiry into an athletics program, they were happy to announce that it was a success. Teams for basketball, soccer, volleyball, and E-sports were founded, and they will be provided with their own committee in the S.G.A. Chapter, as well as a total starting fund of $2000, with the ability to access up to $20,000 from the annual budget. These benefits, along with the athletic committee, are set to roll out by the end of February. Looking forward to 2024, Fox Valley plans to expand their community support, their selection of athletic activities, and to explore the introduction of physical education.

Gateway

Gateway Technical College welcomed Dr. Ritu Raju as their new president. The student government and Student Life will be offering Spring Success Kits and a free lunch during the first three days of the Spring semester. The MLK Day of Service is scheduled for January 20th, providing an opportunity for individuals to volunteer and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Life will host Trivia Time on February 2nd, covering topics such as Black History Month and Valentine's Day. Additionally, Gateway's Diversity 365 committee is hosting workshops for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Awareness Month, including Opioid Overdose Response Training, The Addict Within Workshop, and Drive Safe and Sober Workshop, with gift cards offered to attending students.

Madison

Madison successfully celebrated the Mung New Year's and held a fall graduation ceremony with a cap decoration competition. They also hosted a welcome back session for new students and a student leader retreat, focusing on outreach to bring in more students to activities. The student senate has addressed concerns from the town hall, such as building and food concerns, by bringing them to the district board and various vice presidents. The town hall event is coming up this spring, where students will have a sit-down talk over a speech at the south campus location. Madison has also had success with high school outreach, including an E-sports competition and a Martin Luther King Day celebration for college readiness.

Mid-State

Mid-State Technical College held a number of successful community and student-focused events in the past few months. The Mid State Auto Club organized a "Choice for Tax" event that raised funds for families in need. The Mid State Student Nurses Association conducted a warm clothing and food drive that delivered essential items to the local community and organizations. The Equity and Inclusion Task Force hosted a dress for success clothing drive, where students could receive free, gently used clothes to start their professional careers. The Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) organization worked on promoting self-care tips, mental health awareness, and distributed bookmarks with five-minute self-care tips for students who feel stressed. The college also organized a Thanksgiving feast on each of their four campuses, and during the stressful final exams week, the Mid State Inclusion Union hosted virtual trivia breakfasts, burritos, subs, and chips for students to enjoy. To provide a relaxing space for students during exams week, the Equity and Inclusion Task Force created a "slow zone" on each campus. The zone offered activities such as coloring and meditation stations to help students de-stress and take a break from their worries. Mid State Technical College hosted its fall commencement ceremony on December 10th in Wisconsin Rapids. One hundred graduates participated, and it was a joyous occasion for staff, faculty, family, and friends to celebrate their accomplishments. The ceremony was followed by a reception that included photo booths, refreshments, and an opportunity for attendees to connect with each other. The spring semester at Mid-State Technical College begins on January 23rd, and the college plans to hold a week of fun events to welcome students back.

Milwaukee Area

At M.A.T.C., various holiday events were held at the four campuses, including characterize cookie decorating, ornament making, and a holiday dinner for students and their families. The Asian student organizations celebrated the Mung New Year by selling roses as a fundraiser. The criminal justice student organization has resumed their lunch and learn series, sponsored by the Office of Student Life. Several events were organized to provide students with information on the resources available at M.A.T.C. and in the community, including the opening of a food pantry at the mini campus at Walker Square. M.A.TC. is preparing for the start of the spring semester and will have a welcome back event at all four campuses. Additionally, weekly events for students include free popcorn a few times a week, coffee and hot chocolate once a week at the Oak Creek campus in the student life office, Self-Care Mondays, and Tuesday board games.

Moraine Park

At Moraine Park the Beaver Dam student senate hosted lunch and learn sessions for resume and cover letter writing, as well as volunteer dog walking sessions for the humane society in December. In January, students can look forward to a welcome back week full of activities and entertainment. The West Bend student Senate and C.N.C. Club also sponsored a drive where students and employees came together to create 30 blankets that will be donated to Children's Hospital. In Beaver Dam and West Bend, students wrapped up the fall semester with a bake and take and ventriloquist, respectively. Meanwhile, Fon Du Lac students enjoyed a performance from comedian Greg Hahn, as well as a brand-new interactive game, single and team trivia. The upcoming welcome back week at Fon Du Lac will consist of performances from comedian John Cassidy and musician Noah Hoehn, as well as Casino Day, a license plate make, and free lunches. In addition, students from all three campuses went on an end of semester trip to participate in a night of ax throwing and pizza. Finally, nearly 100 graduates participated in Moraine Park's first winter commencement ceremony on Friday, December 16th.

Nicolet

Nicolet College recently held a welcome week, which included a student fair, snowshoeing, and plenty of free food for students. The college will be launching a food pantry next week, where students can use an online form to select and pick up items. As part of their student event series, Nicolet will be hosting several classes this spring, including a student tax tip class, an auto maintenance class, and an intro to gardening class. The student government is currently working on a promotional video to recruit new members, which they hope to use in courses and around campus. Additionally, student engagement is exploring the use of an event app that students can use to promote events on campus.

NTC

At NTC, the Rocket League team has achieved an impressive feat by remaining undefeated and winning the N.E.C.C. fall cup. The PTK chapter organized a card-making activity for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, which resulted in customized cards with themes and messages for the waiting “littles”. The campus food pantry has received great support from students and employees, and has been relocated to a more accessible area, resulting in more people being served with more food. The on-campus W.S.G. has been providing updates to the local district board after each meeting.

NWTC

NWTC will be closed on Monday to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and their Spring One classes are scheduled to begin on January 17th. Student Involvement is welcoming students back with a week-long event that includes free coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and fresh cookies. The student senate at NWTC is considering a rebranding effort that shifts the focus from a senate approach to more of a leadership role throughout the school, with changes to include students in different trade programs and nursing programs. The school is also focusing on offering more academic courses that transfer to four-year institutions. Additionally, NWTC has opened a new e-sports arena and hired a new coach. After 25 years of service, the college president is retiring, and students are being offered sessions to give their input on the qualifications that the new candidate should have.

Southwest Tech

At Southwest Tech, there has been a change in leadership due to the governor leaving on maternity leave. Through line of succession, the lieutenant governor, Ryan Lamb, became the new governor. And Ann Diesing was voted in as the new lieutenant governor. During finals week, the school held a de-stress fest to help students cope with the pressure of exams. In December, a fundraiser was held for the school's food pantry, which raised $7,000. The collegiate cyber defense competition league will be competing in the regional competition, after placing 6th in the region for the invitational.

Western

At Western, the student government hosted the annual holiday social for student leaders and other students to celebrate the end of the term and hang out before the holidays. As part of the Warming Tree program, the school collected winter clothing to keep students warm during the winter months. The school recently welcomed students to the new term with a chocolate social, which featured hot cocoa and cookies. Additionally, the school is in the process of selecting a new logo, and the student government plans to vote on the new logo at their next General Assembly.