Wisconsin Student Government

Wisconsin Technical College Advocacy Group

Established 1972

[www.wsgtech.com](http://www.wsgtech.com)

**WSG January 12, 2024 Meeting**

**Hosted by Northcentral Technical College**

1000 W. Campus Drive | Wausau, WI 54401

**Room: Center for Health Sciences-Room 1004**

**10:00 a.m. Roll Call**

Vice President Mailia Bachleitner called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

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

**10:05 a.m. Welcome from Katie Felch, Vice President of Community + Government Relations.**

Vice President Bachleitner read the opening statement to introduce Vice President Katie Felch.

**10:15 a.m. Approval of Agenda and November 10 Meeting Minutes**

* Motion from Blackhawk to approve the meeting minutes. NTC seconds. Motion approved unanimously.
* Blackhawk to approve agenda, Madison College seconds. Motion passed unanimously.

**Reports**

* + **President Report – Katrina Willis**
    - **Guiding Principles**
      * Northcentral added that guests should be allowed to finish their speech topic before interrupted with questions.
      * Blackhawk wanted to emphasize that students should bring their comments/concerns to the proper channels and those should be clearly established and outlined beforehand.
      * Madison College registered their agreement with Blackhawk.
      * To conclude, President Willis stressed the importance of being respectful of everyone’s time.
  + **AFO Report – Kai Brito**
    - Blackhawk motions to explore high interest savings account investment options to be presented at the February meeting to be voted on by the WSG governors. Fox Valley Tech seconds.
      * Motion passed unanimously.
  + **Resource Director Report**
    - **Legislative Seminar Updates**
      * Legislative Seminar Agenda will be sent out soon.
      * Afra Smith & Ashante (Ziggy) Odogun were selected as conference speakers.
      * Registration for Legislative seminar is now open.

Gateway motions for a five-minute break. Southwest seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

**10:45 a.m. WTCS Updates- Brandon Trujillo – WTCS Policy Advisor**

* Every year the WTCS System Board sets tuition for the entire state, around March.
* Base tuition rate on occupational courses vs. liberal arts transfer degree tuition.
* A three-member workgroup that makes decision on tuition rates.
* WSG voted to send out a letter asking WTCS not to increase the tuition rate by more than 1.4%.
* AFO Brito: Asked about whether financial aid options like Wisconsin Grants will also be increasing to keep up with the tuition rate increases.
  + Financial aid locked in the budget for the biennium.
* President Willis: Asking about the reasoning for why the tuition increase is necessary to cover expenses at WTCS.
  + Colleges must be competitive with the markets to attract top talent, pay for capital expenses, and prevent any cuts from the current faculty and staff.
* Sean Hogan, FTVC: How necessary is it to increase tuition right now?
  + Multiple colleges (handful) were asking for increases from 5-7% in order to manage their budgets. Board has been trying to keep increases very low, but salaries, overhead, utilities, insurance, rising costs require adjustments accordingly.
  + There was a $9 million investment from the state, but that's not anywhere near where we need to be, this is just to continue status quo and fund classes as-is
  + Colleges have to get grants from state or Federal government in order to fund programs, participating in revenue search for sure.
  + Developing Markets state program
* Annette Crowder, Madison College: How is the funding decided between the colleges and what are the difference in issues between the colleges?
  + Main determining factor is local taxes from property tax, state aid distributed to all colleges from funding formula (students enrolled, program offerings, other ideas).
* Sean Hogan, FVTC: Is the budget allocated just not meeting our needs for schools in general, or is it just WTCS?
* Sandra Hyer, Lakeshore: Stated she was thankful to go to technical college because it saved money for her, and that we should pat ourselves on the back for choosing tech colleges.
* Mention of AB-551/SB-571 Freedom of speech and of the press in school-sponsored media

Lakeshore motions to write letter to recommend to the WTCS Board to not increase the tuition beyond 1.5% for the next 2024-2025 fiscal year. Western seconds.

Motion passes unanimously.

**11:00 a.m. Legislative Seminar Position Paper- Brandon Trujillo/Madison/Nicolet**

* ADA Accessibility edits were recommended to revise the paper for the final draft.
* Suggestion to include cost of attendance instead of tuition costs
* Include sources directly on the page
* Overall, the first presented draft of the position paper was well received.

**11:45 a.m. Fundraising Work Group Updates- John Krueger**

Removed from agenda.

**12:15 p.m. Lunch**

**1:00 p.m. Legislative Representative Visit – Representative Patrick Snyder**

Discussions on legislative issues from his district, emphasizing his role in policy conversations involving mental health issues, rural health, medical marijuana and funding for technical college education.

Lakeshore motions for a five minute break. Southwest Tech seconds.

Motion passes by majority 11-1, no abstentions.

**2:00 p.m. Governor Updates**

* Blackhawk
  + Student Government:
    - Smart Start Day will be held on January 13th, and we are planning some events for ‘Welcome Week.’
    - The SGA challenged all student organizations to have a hygiene drive throughout the month of November. Staff and faculty were encouraged to help their favorite student orgs by donating to the collection bins in the IDEA lounge. A total of 719 items were donated. The Criminal Justice Association won the pizza party sponsored by SGA.
    - Our Winter Carnival took place on December 2nd. This event was open to the public and was a great success with more than 300 people in attendance.
  + Student Organizations:
    - Most of our student organizations participated in the Winter Carnival that was held on campus. Some events included face painting, Build-a-Plush, sleigh rides, and cookie decorating.
    - The Multi-Cultural Alliance collaborated with RUHS and community partners for a discussion panel in recognition of Native American History Month on November 29th. The discussion focused on the impact of nuclear testing on Native Americans.
    - Several student organizations are planning on attending conferences related to their academic programs at the beginning of the year.
* Chippewa Valley
  + Hosted a successful Finals Fest
  + Started an initiative for menstrual equity at college
* Fox Valley
  + Filled all of our exec positions
  + Held biweekly student government meetings
  + Held listening sessions
  + Met with and talked to the VP of student success to gauge progress
  + Went to APCA (Association of the Promotion of Campus Activities)
  + Ran'D Shine (Magician) and Aiden Park (actor, comedian, & motivational speaker)
* Gateway
  + United Student Government buying a van for Student Life for all orgs.
  + USG working to update campus activity center.
  + Campus Ambassador applications open now.
* Lakeshore
  + Local board game store hosted on campus to do a casino night with mocktails, charcuterie, and prizes
  + Hosting winter welcome brunch coming back to campus, along with a hot cocoa board
  + Celebrating MLK Day with exhibit
  + Two new student spaces opening in Lakeshore building
* Madison College
  + Student Senate Advisor Ellie Rome was promoted to Director of Student Life
  + Student Senate passed a resolution to create an Inclusion & Belonging Coordinator position, which is meant to promote student outreach and engagement, increase communication and collaboration between Student Clubs and Student Organizations, and improve Campus Climate and Intergroup Relations for the Madison College community.
  + The Student Senate and Student Activities Board approved the Referendum to increase the fee to fund Student Organizations with 90.7% of students voting in favor of the referendum and passing it.
* Midstate
  + Mid-State is gearing up for the start of our spring semester on January 22. Student Life will host activities all week that include welcome bags, a movie screening, free breakfast, and a pizza night on each campus.
  + Yesterday and today, we’re holding “DEI Applied” - an in-person conference intended for participants to learn from best practices and case studies on how to create inclusive and equitable spaces. The event is geared toward professionals, educators, and community members but is open to all.
  + A new, 16-credit Utility Tree Trimmer technical diploma program will soon be available at Mid-State. Students in the program will be trained in introductory electrical awareness and safety, electrical hardware identification, tree pruning, chainsaw use, climbing, tree identification, pesticide handling and application, and tree biology.
  + Finally, Mid-State is expanding its Direct Admission Initiative by automatically accepting all GED and high school equivalency diploma graduates. We began the Direct Admission initiative in 2021 with Adams-Friendship High School and due to the program’s success, it was expanded earlier this year to all high schools in the College’s district and now to all GED and HSED graduates. We are proud to continue to reduce barriers for those seeking higher education.
* Milwaukee Area
  + Previous events:
    - Teaser Tuesdays ~ Where we offered students freshly popped popcorn & a sneak peek at upcoming events.
    - Heart of a Hall of Famer ~ Gold Jacket, Willie Roaf ~ Which was an online program powered by Extreme Networks that gave students credit.
  + Upcoming events:
    - Mindful Monday’s ~ Where students can Start their week off right and decompress with some stress-relieving activities & mindfulness every Monday. A variety of breathing tips & techniques, coloring books, meditation exercises and more! Come and go as you please. For a private space to reflect, they may visit our NEW & IMPROVED meditation room in Mequon.
    - Game Day Tuesday’s ~ Where we have 2 screens, 8 contro;;ers & dozens of video games for the students to play.
    - Thankful Thursdays ~ What better way to show gratitude than to join us for Thankful Thursdays?!?!?! Each Thursday join us in the MATC Downtown Cafeteria for a time to share thanks by creating a special note for someone special or adding to our affirmation wall.
    - Spring Semester Kickoff in Mequon January 23, 2024; West Allis February 14, 2024.
    - Blood Drive in Mequon February 13, 2024
    - Be My Valentine ~ February 14, 2024. Where we will be having free food & free cards to write to those you love.
    - Neurodivergent Network Where we invite those who identify as Neurodivergent to Join our network! Connect in a safe space for snacks and games!
* Nicolet
  + Hosted a body hygiene drive in addition to food pantry drive, which resulted in a double turnout
  + Ran Welcome Week with student services fair promoting Student Government
  + Campus events include Valentine's Day class, Art Night, Movie Night
* Northcentral
  + Northcentral has successfully completed our reaccreditation through the Higher Learning Commission.
  + NTC will be launching two new health programs this Spring: a medical administrative professional associate degree and a sterile processing technician certificate.
  + Additionally, NTC has opened our new Health 4.0 simulation lab offering Immersive reality rooms and other virtual reality options to offer students cutting-edge education.
  + There is Timberwolf twilight which is going to be an introduction for new students and current to meet and get to know each other by playing games and participating in events such as just dance, Karaoke, and board games and a movie that finishes out the night!
* Moraine Park
  + 11 students attended the ABCA conference
  + Hosted “Stressed AF” event on stress response system and triggers, identifying suicidal cues
  + Hosted a “Holiday Whoville-ation” which was a holiday mingle, complete with cookie decorating, handcrafted hot chocolate and ornament making
* Southwest
  + Student Senate planning food and clothing drive
  + Accounting Club hosted 5k event to be completed in person
* Western
  + Annual Holiday Social - On December 6: Our Students and staff gathered for some festive fun before the holiday break – snacks, games, mocktails, and cool prizes. We also host the Virtual Holiday Shout Contest, where students and their families share their holiday spirit through a photo contest, with a chance to win some awesome prizes.
  + Salvation Army Bell Ringing - December 9: On December 9, we teamed up with our local Salvation Army for some bell ringing. We got the great idea of customizing our kettle, inspired by the latest Barbie movie. It was super cute and felt great to give back to our community!
  + Hot Chocolate Social - January 10: New year, new vibes! We welcomed students this week to the new our term with our classic Hot Chocolate Social on January 10. There were Quizlets, prizes, and good times all around.

**2:30 p.m. Adjournment**

Lakeshore motions to adjourn the meeting. Southwest seconds. Motion passes unanimously.

President Willis Meeting adjourns at 2:29pm.