

WISCONSIN STUDENT GOVERNMENT
January 23-24th, 2009
Hosted by Madison Area Technical College
Minutes

Meeting called to order: 10:30

COLLEGES PRESENT: WSG President, Rachel Weyers, WITC; Resource Director Jan Logan; Secretary, Tessa Weyers, Chippewa Valley, Blackhawk, Fox Valley, Lakeshore, Milwaukee Area, Madison Area, Moraine Park, Nicolet Area, Northeast Wisconsin, Southwest Wisconsin, Western, and Wisconsin Indianhead.

Warm-up exercise on parliamentary procedure: led by La Tisha Vanden Bush, NWTC. Afterward, Rachel Weyers provided an overview of the technical college system.

A motion to adjourn the meeting until 12:30 p.m. for lunch was made by La Tisha Vanden Bush, NWTC. Mike Shattuck, MPTC, seconded the motion. Zach Smith, NATC, moved to reconvene at 1:00p.m., instead of 12:30. Natalie De Simone, LTC, seconded the motion. Sarah Miller, WITC, called the question to reconvene at 1:00. Motion not passed. Jason Humke, MATC-Madison, called the question to reconvene at the appointed time on the agenda at 12:30. Motion passed.

The meeting was called back to order at 12:28 p.m. The agenda was amended for the Goals Committee to present before the Bylaws Committee.

Minutes approval: The minutes of the October 17-18th meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer report: Due to a vacancy in the Treasurer's position, Jan Logan presented the treasurer's report. The checking balance is \$8,451.93 and savings balance is \$19,856.35. A detailed list of receipts and expenditures was provided. Justin Wheelock, NWTC, moved to accept the treasurer's report as stated, Rita Martinez, CVTC, seconded it. Motion passed.

OFFICER REPORTS: Rachel Weyers, WITC, WSG President, shared that both the vice president and treasurer had to step down. Discussion followed on whether these positions should be filled for a two-month period. Rita Martinez moved to not hold an election for treasurer until next election date. Karen Hendrickson seconded it. No debate. Motion passed. Justin Wheelock, NWTC, moved that WSG should hold nominations and elections for vice president for a two-month term. Zach Smith, NATC, seconded it. There was debate on the issue relating to criteria for a candidate and legality of not having another officer. Question was called: 11 in favor, 1 opposed to holding nominations and election for the Vice President position in the morning meeting, Jan. 24th. Motion passed. Rachel Weyers, WITC, and Sam Aquino, MATC-Madison shared information about the State Board meeting(s) they attended.

Goals Committee report: La Tisha Vanden Bush, NWTC, chair of Goals Committee presented 11 goals with possible solutions. Reason for goals committee is to give the organization a clearer statement of purpose and assist the bylaws committee to address issues that would keep WSG stable and organized.

Bylaw Committee update: Rachel Weyers, WITC, WSG President and Jan Logan, Resource Director presented proposed bylaw changes for 2009-10. An electronic copy of proposed changes is available upon request. In February the Bylaw committee is allowed to present more changes. The changes will be voted on in the April meeting.

Guest Speaker: Paul Gabriel, Exec. Director, District Boards Assn., provided a *Status of Legislative Issues that Impact WSG & Technical Education*. He stressed that student impact on the state budget has never been as prominent as it is now. The state has a deficit of 342million dollars for the period ending June 30 due to fallout in lost taxes from wages and buying. Paul Gabriel emphasized that WSG is coming to Madison for the legislative meeting at an enormously important time and that WSG's voice will count. He said that students must let their legislators know that they are a good investment. District Board, college presidents, and WSG, have put together a state budget proposal that needs support.

Guest Speaker: Edna Early, WITC Advisor, presented how students should tell their story at the Capitol. She spoke on how to speak to legislatures. A few tips she recommended included punctuality, telling your own story because it brings impact to what you say, putting it in writing, being a good listener, sending a formal thank you letter after and speaking in terms they understand.

La Tisha Vanden Bush, NWTC, moved to recess till 3:45. Sarah Miller, WITC, seconded the motion. Passed. Meeting called to order again at 3:42 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Conor Smyth of the WTCS state office spoke on Student Transition Issues. The Lumina Foundation has given a grant to look at transition issues for students within primary, secondary, and postsecondary education, in order to see what issues can be worked on. He opened the floor up for discussion on this topic to answer 3 questions: What are the barriers high school students face when entering college, what are obstacles for non-traditional students, how do you envision a system working that will make it easier to advance in your career?

The budget modification proposal for WSG travel expenses was going to be addressed because of the increased expenses of having two officers travel to the District Association and State Board meetings. Since the vice president position has been vacant, the budget does not need to be modified; thus, this item was taken from the agenda.

Legislative Seminar drafted agenda: presented by Jan Logan. The seminar committees gave an update on progress. Paid registrations are due no later than February 12. A minimum of 100 attendees is necessary for the seminar to be successful. Questions should be directed to the Resource Director – Jan Logan. Justin Wheelock, NWTC, presented the drafted position paper for the Legislative Seminar addressing the four topics identified at the Oct. 2008 meeting. La Tisha Vanden Bush, NWTC, moved to approve the position paper as written with the designated change to have the introduction rewritten to reflect the current recession issue. Dave Sommers, MATC-Milwaukee, seconded it. Motion passed.

Rita Martinez, CVTC, volunteered to chair Bylaws Committee. Margaret Leavy, BTC; Justin Wheelock, NWTC; Maria Guenther, MPTC; Brad Reinke, SWTC; and David Carle, CVTC, volunteered to be committee members. Those interested in running for Vice President also stood up and stated their reason.

Sarah Miller, WITC, moved to adjourn the meeting. Daniel Johnson, NTC, seconded it. Motion passed.

On Saturday the meeting was called to order at 8:28 a.m.

COLLEGES PRESENT: Rachel Weyers, President; Jan Logan, Resource Director; Tessa Weyers, Secretary; Blackhawk, Chippewa Valley, Fox Valley, Lakeshore, Madison Area, Milwaukee Area, Moraine Park, Nicolet Area, North Central, Northeast Wisconsin, Southwest Wisconsin, Western, and Wisconsin Indianhead.

Rachel Weyers provided a review of the recommended bylaw changes for 2009-10.

Vice President election: The election for Vice President took place. Eric Gage, FVTC, nominated Justin Wheelock, NWTC, Justin accepted. Joe Calliari, MPTC, nominated himself, Jordyn Breusewitz, NATC, nominated Zach Smith, NATC, Zach accepted. Ifrah Mohammed, MATC-Madison, nominated Sam Aquino, MATC-Madison, Sam accepted. Each nominee was asked five questions. There was a break for the colleges to discuss their choice, then each nominee was asked an additional two questions. There was another break for 2 minutes for the colleges to make their final decision and cast their vote. Ballot was cast: Justin Wheelock, NWTC, was elected Vice President of WSG for a term ending in April.

Rita Martinez, CVTC, moved to break for recess for 15 minutes. Joe Calliari, MPTC, seconded it. Motion passed.

Shari Prag, Webmaster, shared the Web site update. Six colleges have not given their permission to use their logo yet. Colleges should e-mail Shari Prag with anything that is missing for their respective college. The governor's reports will be posted on discussion board. Any topic someone wishes to be on discussion board, e-mail to Rachel or Jan. Shari Prag also

requested that the Governor's e-mail her with the schedule of when they are meeting with their legislators for the legislative seminar as soon as possible, so that she can prepare a schedule to take photo's.

GOVERNOR REPORTS: Each Governor gave an update on their respective colleges and districts.

La Tisha Vanden Bush, NWTC, moved to take a 10 min. recess. Seconded by Sarah Miller, WITC. Passed.

Ex-officio tabled issue from October: The question as to whether the ex-officio members should have the right to vote at WSG meetings was tabled at the last meeting and brought up for discussion at this time. Tim Hyma, Western, moved to take from the table the motion to not allow the ex-officio members the right to vote at WSG meetings. Daniel Johnson, NTC, seconded it, motion passed. Discussion was held. Margaret Leavy, BTC, moved to table the discussion until the next meeting. Angelique Kraft, MPTC, seconded it. Motion failed. The question was called on the motion to "not allow the ex-officio members the right to vote at WSG meetings". 6 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstain. Motion passed. The ex-officio members are not allowed the right to vote.

An explanation on the student representative to the State Board. Vanessa Pickar's term as the student representative of the State Board is a two-year term and it is up this May. This is a Governor appointed position and is volunteer. Rachel Weyers will share the details of applying with any student interested.

Justin Wheelock, NWTC, moved that we adjourn, Daniel Johnson, NTC, second. Motion passed. Adjourned at 11:43.

Future meetings:

February 23 & 24, 2009 at Concourse Hotel in Madison

April 24 & 25, 2009 at Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac

Recorder: Tessa Weyers