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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Assembly

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Colleges and Universities...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (November 2012)

Assembly

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Colleges and Universities

Assembly Bill 603

Relating to: popular election of technical college district boards, providing an exemption from and extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures and granting rule-making authority.

By Representatives Musser, Wood, Kerkman, LeMahieu, F. Lasee, Suder, Lehman, Towns and Rhoades; cosponsored by Senators A. Lasee and Darling.

August 16, 2005 Referred to Committee on Colleges and Universities.

October 4, 2005 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (10) Representatives Kreibich, Ballweg, Underheim, Nass, Jeskewitz, Towns, Shilling, Schneider, Black, Molepske.

Absent: (2) Representatives Lamb and Boyle.

Appearances For

- Terry Musser — Rep., State Assembly

Appearances Against

- Sally Lister, Black River Falls — Western Wisconsin Tech College
- Jim Olson, Viroqua — WWTC Dist Board
- Lee Rasch, LaCrosse — Western Wisconsin Tech. College
- Paul Gabriel, Madison — WI Tech College District Boards
- Dan Clancy, Madison — President, WI Tech College System
- Joan Jenstead, Brookfield — WCTC
- Earl Muhlbaer, Baraboo
- JoAnne Ehasz, Mauston — Western Wisconsin Tech College Board
- Lauren Backer, Milwaukee — Milwaukee Area Tech. College

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- None.

Registrations Against

- Tama Meili, Madison — WTC Dist Boards Assn
- James Rehagen, Pewaukee — Waukesha County Tech. College
- Tim Elvermen, Milwaukee — Milwaukee Area Tech College
- Steve Tenpas, Windsor

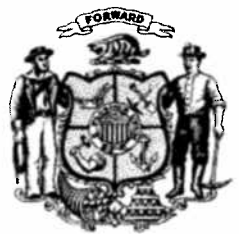
May 4, 2006

Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1.

Brad Hub
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



***Recommendations of the Speaker's Task Force
on the Wisconsin Technical College System***

October 29, 2003

CREDIT TRANSFER

1. Require by statute that up to 25 credits of general education courses shall automatically transfer between WTCS and UWS institutions.

2. Require the UWS and the WTCS to accelerate development of their own systemwide uniform curricula.

3. Require that the UWS and WTCS continue and accelerate the negotiation of articulation agreements. Require establishment of an articulation agreement for each program that exists in both systems. Utilize the Joint Administrative Committee on Academic Programs (JACAP) to identify which programs exist in both systems. Agreements should be developed at the department level.

4. Prioritize the programs for which articulation agreements will be developed based on "student flow" and economic development needs.

5. Establish a timeline for the development of articulation agreements.

6. In articulation agreements, include the option for students to "test out" of courses.

7. Direct the UWS and WTCS to promulgate rules establishing a procedure to appeal a decision of the receiving institution denying credit for a course taken at the other institution. The rules shall provide that decisions made pursuant to the process are final, notwithstanding s. 36.09 (4), Stats., the UWS faculty governance statute.

DUPLICATION

Request a performance audit by the Legislative Audit Bureau, examining whether there is duplication between the UWS and the WTCS in physical facilities or programs, in accordance with the attached scope statement.

DISTRICT BOARDS

1. Maintain the current method of appointing members of technical college district boards.

2. Amend s. 38.08 (1) (a) 1. and 2., Stats., relating to the composition of technical college district boards, as follows:

38.08 (1) (a) 1. A district board shall administer the district, shall reflect the diverse makeup of the district, and shall be composed of 9 members who are residents of the district, including 2 employers, 2 employees, 3

additional members, a school district administrator, as defined under s. 115.001 (8), and one elected official who holds a state or local office, as defined in s. 5.02. The board shall by rule define "employer" and "employee" for the purpose of this subdivision.

2. The employer and employee members of the district board shall be representative of the various businesses and industries in the district. The school district administrator shall be employed by the school board of a school district located in the district. ~~Of the 3 additional members, no more than 2 may be employers, no more than 2 may be employees, no more than 3 may be school district administrators and no more than 3 may be elected officials.~~ No 2 members of the district board may be officials of the same governmental unit nor may any district board member be a member of the school board that employs the school district administrator member.

3. Require the president of each technical college to make an annual presentation on the technical college district budget to each county board in the technical college district.

FUNDING

1. The Legislature and WTCS should work towards establishing a funding formula for the WTCS under which an equal share of funding is derived from each of the three funding sources: student tuition; property taxes levied by the local technical college districts; and state aid. The Legislature should ensure that as tuition levels increase, financial aid is made available to ensure access to the WTCS by needy students. The Legislature should also consider whether the exemption from program fees for vocational adult courses for persons aged 62 years and older is appropriate. [s. 38.24 (1m) (b), Stats.]

2. The Legislature and the WTCS should strive to maintain: (a) the current high level of flexibility and local control within the WTCS which enables local technical college districts to respond quickly to local needs; and (b) general parity of programs offered by technical college districts throughout the state.

3. The WTCS should make greater efforts to ensure that technical colleges recover 100% of costs for contract courses they provide and should consider whether all technical colleges should be required to recover 100% or more of instructional costs for community service courses.

STATE BOARD AUTHORITY

The WTCS Board, with the assistance of the WTCS Office staff, should undertake a self-assessment of its role and operations. The Board should identify changes that could be made to increase its responsibility and to increase accountability of the Board and the technical college system to the taxpayers. The analysis should also address the specific topics and questions set forth below. The Board should submit a report of its self-assessment and a plan of action addressing the Task Force's concerns to the Legislature within six months.

Role of the State Board

- Should the Board play a stronger role in developing statewide policies applicable to all technical colleges in the state?
- Should the Board exercise more control over activities and operations at technical colleges?
- Is the Board using its current authority, including authority over state aid and program approval, to an appropriate extent?
- Should faculty employment contracts, including the provision of health care coverage and other benefits, be negotiated on a statewide basis rather than individually by each technical college district? Are salary comparisons between technical college districts being used to artificially elevate WTCS faculty salaries statewide?

Operations of the State Board

- Does the Board meet often enough to enable Board members to develop sufficient expertise for informed decision making?
- Does the Board adequately review staff recommendations?
- Should the Board establish standing committees to focus on specific topics to enable Board members to develop expertise and familiarity with important topics?
- Is the Board Office staff configured in the best way possible? What is the proper role of the Office staff?
- Should the state consider eliminating the State Board, and operate the WTCS with only a President and Office staff?

MM:rv:tlu;ksm

Joan Jenstead
Brookfield, WI
District board member (Waukesha County Technical College) and real estate agent

Paul Pederson
Milwaukee, WI
Past district board member (MATC)

Rodney Pasch
Fond du Lac, WI
VP, Human Resources (Moraine Park Technical College)

Marc Sommer
Industry Representative, Racine

Charlie Most
Ellison Bay, WI
County Board Chairman (Door)

L. Anne Reid
West Bend, WI
State WTCS board member

Margaret Cleek
Madison, WI
Chancellor, UW Colleges

Dr. William Ihlenfeldt
Eau Claire, WI
President, Chippewa Valley Technical College

Phillip Stuart
Tomah, WI
CEO, Tomah Memorial Hospital

Joan Nellen
Bayside, WI
Tech School Instructor

Joe Davis
Former member, Educational Approval Board

Rep. John Steinbrink
Pleasant Prairie, WI

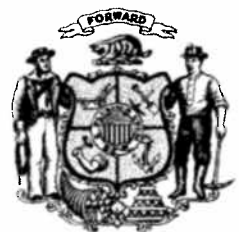
Rep. Jeff Wood
Chippewa Falls, WI

Rep. Sue Jeskewitz (Co-Chair)
Menomonee Falls, WI

Rep. Garey Bies (Co-Chair)
Sister Bay, WI



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



From: Carvin, Heidi [mailto:carvinh@evansville.k12.wi.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2005 12:04 PM
To: rep.kreibich@legis.state.wi.us; rep.towns@legis.state.wi.us; rep.davis@legis.state.wi.us
Cc: Larson, Eric
Subject: AB 603

Representative Kreibich,

I am writing to express my opposition to AB 603 which would dissolve the current technical college board system and replace all boards with elected representatives. I have the following concerns:

1) As a newly appointed member representing school district superintendents in Rock and Green County, I was carefully interviewed and screened by two elected officials: The County board chairs of both Rock and Green County. Prior to that, I had to complete a detailed application process that included three letters of recommendation specifically assessing my qualifications for the position. I believe this process is superior to election because it requires an independent review of qualifications whereas anyone can run for office. It also provides oversight by elected officials and therefore does provide direct influence of elected officials on Tech College Boards.

2) The current process, by specifying the slots that need to be filled establishes a much more diverse board reflecting cultural, racial, gender, and background knowledge differences that creates a synergy leading to more effective and less partisan decision making.

3) Many of the people currently on the board would not have the time, financial, or campaign skill resources necessary to run for office. This would deter people who I would argue are more qualified for the role of Tech Board membership than those who might choose to run or see it as a stepping stone to a political career.

4) Abolishing the current boards, that in many cases includes members with many years of service and experience throws away the value of this experience. As a superintendent I have seen the improvement possible in districts where there is continuity of leadership, and the difficulties districts encounter when this continuity is lacking. As I have attended our board meetings I have seen the value these experienced members bring to our decision-making and training of new members. I believe abolishing the current boards would throw our technical colleges into an unnecessary state of disarray as they struggle with other much more important issues.

Thank you for your time. I would appreciate you sharing this with other members of your committee.

Heidi J. Carvin
District Administrator

Website: Evansville.k12.wi.us

Evansville Community School District
340 Fair Street
Evansville, WI 53536

608-882-3386



September 27, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich & Committee:

While unable to come to Madison for your hearing on AB 603, I do want to offer my thoughts on why it is not necessary.

I want to start with the premise of "If it isn't broke, why fix it". I was a County Board member for 10 years and am now on my 3rd term as a Mid-State Technical College Board Member. In addition to my awareness of the value of the College to the District, it is a professional environment to work in. Our decisions are made based on the needs of the student. While I live in Wisconsin Rapids, my concern is that we are doing our job for all the campus locations in the District equally. I question if this would remain so in an elected environment.

One subject that keeps coming up is the taxing authority. We strive to be fiscally responsible. It would be nice to have the State move faster at budget time to assist the process. Our funding sources are many and having to set a tax rate without having all the numbers is difficult. We are well aware of how we are appointed and feel responsible to the appointment authority and ultimately the full body of our District for the fiscal policy guidelines we set to run the college. None of my fellow 8 Board Members take this accountability lightly.

One of the reasons I think the Appointed Board is effective is that it is made up of people from education, elected officials and employer/employee people from the District Community. This mix brings all points of view to the table and along with a competent staff, generally results in a final product on any issue that has been researched and well thought out before the Board action finalizes it. Again, the impact on the student is in the forefront of the decision making process.

The Appointed Board does avoid some of the expense associated with being elected. Check my record, I do not charge any mileage back to the College for travel to and from Board meetings. While we do get fed, there is no per diem. The college does pay for

travel and related expense for participation at conferences. Overall, the MSTC Appointed Board is, in my opinion, less expensive for the District to run and achieves a high quality of productivity from the members for its investment.

I am not a Professional Politician; however, I do follow the same ethics laws as you do. I operate in the open and publicly except for labor contract deliberations and matters covered by statute. I deliberate on each and every financial decision made asking how does it benefit the student, is it in the budget, can we afford it, etc.

I have made a commitment to represent the entire Mid-State District based on the needs of the student and of each campus within the District without regard to any factors except the result of the action against the goals and mission of the College.

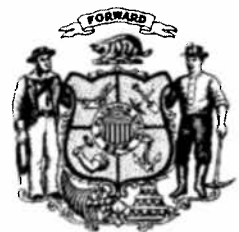
It is my understanding that a Taskforce has already looked at the Appointed Board process and found it to be a sound method of providing governance, mission accomplishment and accountability to its main supporters, the taxpayer. Please do not disrupt this engine that is on track to deliver the talent we desperately need to revitalize and sustain our economy in Wisconsin today and tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Costello
453 Shady Lane
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
Mid-State Technical College Board Member



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



September 27, 2005

Dear Representative Kreibich,

As a retired member of a Technical College Board for ten years (Madison Area Technical College) , I read with dismay your committee's proposal for transforming boards into elected ones.

As an initial concern, elected board members will require compensation rather than the volunteerism demonstrated by current members.

The concept of elected board members has been discussed for as long as I can remember, and over the years I went out of my way to talk to elected college board members from all across the country to make my own assessment of the difference between appointed and elected members. The outstanding difference was the politicization of the office.

Unions and other interest groups invest in elections and move the debates into their particular arenas. Unfortunately, this suppresses the actual mission of the colleges, that of creating a workforce pool that can compete in a word market place. When discussions focus on dollars and not what value dollars can create, much time and energy is wasted. I would urge you to reconsider this proposal.

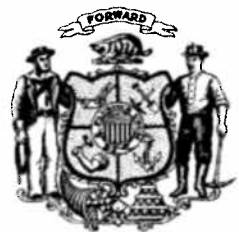
I would also note that some districts are very large and will be much larger than that of senatorial districts. Does the Assembly really want to create a pool of politicians with areas of influence larger than that of Representatives and Senators? I am aware that in other states, this creation of elected members with name recognition in a wide area becomes a staging position for further elected office rather than an actual commitment to technical or community education.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Mrs. Judith Ecker
312 Market Street
DeForest, WI 53532



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



October 3, 2005

To Whom it may concern

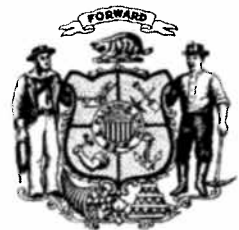
I am a retired district board member from the Blackhawk Technical College District. I served in that position for 10 years and was involved in Statewide and National activities during that time with only expenses reimbursed. I met many other dedicated board members from across the State who contributed expertise to all. The current makeup of the Technical college boards as determined by the legislature provides a great cross section of the citizens who are served by the technical colleges. I find proposal AB603 a weak replacement of what exists and has worked well for many years. In addition, I question the costs that would minimally increase by almost \$150,000 a year just to administer the change. This presupposes that candidates who would spend money to be elected would be willing to serve with no compensation.

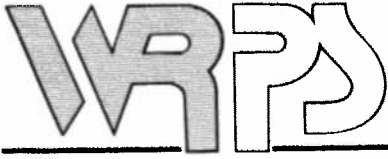
I hope that wisdom will prevail and that the dedication and contributions of current and past Technical College Boards will be recognized and retained to continue to provide our citizens with excellent education for employment and a great contribution to the economy of our beloved State.

Audrey C. Hein
N2557 Richland Rd
Monroe, WI 53566
608-328-4848
ahein@tds.net



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





September 27, 2005

Rep. Rob Kreibich, Chair
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kreibach:

I serve on the Board of Trustees of Mid-State Technical College as the appointed school superintendent to that Board. As such, I take seriously my role not only to make connections between K-12 public education and the technical college, but also as a representative of the concerns and interests of the property taxpayers of our technical college district.

I am opposed to proposal AB 603 that would change the Board structure to that of elected board members.

I would not choose to be a part of the Board if I had to be elected to that seat. I don't have the time to campaign throughout a six-county area. I do have the time to meet with and represent the school districts in that area. That's why the current system works well.

Whoever put together the current structure had it right. To have employer representatives, employee representatives, elected official representatives and school district representatives come to the governing table to make sure our technical colleges continue to be the economic engine for this state works best for the interests of this state. Let's not destroy a good thing.

Our current structure moves beyond single interest concerns and works for the whole. Our current structure lives within fiscal restraints established by state policymakers. Our current structure has created a strong technical college system that is envied throughout the country.

I urge you to resist changing the current structure of the technical college boards. Let's work for what's best for Wisconsin, not for single interests, power, and control.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Ryerson', is written over a white background.

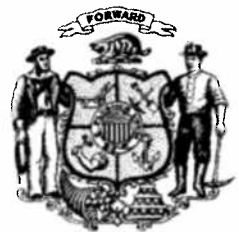
Dean Ryerson
Superintendent

c: Rep. Marlin Schneider
Rep. Louis Molepske Jr.
Paul Gabriel, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association

DR/gl



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



From: Hugh & Chris Williams [mailto:hacwilli@charter.net]

Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2005 1:48 PM

To: Rep.Kreibich

Cc: Rep.Musser; Rep.Ballweg; Rep.Black; Rep.Boyle; Rep.Jeskewitz; Rep.Lamb; Rep.Molepske; Rep.Nass@legis.state.wi.us; Rep.Schneider; Rep.Shilling; Rep.Towns; Rep.Underheim

Subject: Assembly Bill 603

PLEASE PLEASE consider before messing with something that by your own body's thorough Legislative Review (Taskforce to Review the WTCS, Wisconsin State Assembly, November, 2003) **recommended maintaining appointed boards.**

As you know, the 16 tech college boards are appointed by elected officials. We adhere to the same ethic regulations as elected officials; however, we receive no per diem or salary, but serve as **non-partisan volunteers**. Currently board members must meet a category: employer, employee, school administrator or elected. Considering the mission of technical colleges, these representations are most directly related and invaluable when conducting business. Appointment rules do not allow any category to dominate and there are gender and racial/ethnic considerations. All this would go out the door with AB603. Further, the appointment process is duly noticed and there is every opportunity for community participation.

As a retired county clerk and former member (including chair) of the Sparta K-12 School District Board, I am entirely familiar with the election process. The appointment process to a tech college board is no less daunting, but in so many respects it is so much "healthier."

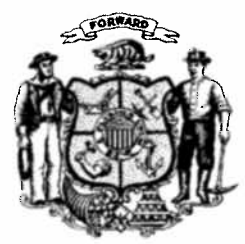
I cannot stress enough that what we have is working, there is no evidence to the contrary, and I would think the November 2003 review and recommendation to maintain appointed boards would weigh heavily in any decision you make.

Thank you so much for your time. Not only in this instance but in serving as an elected official representing our great state. A state known for educational success.

Chris Williams
Western Wisconsin Technical College
District Board Member



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



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Gerald R. McGowan

September 28, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich, Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich:

A previous commitment will make it impossible for me to testify at the hearing for AB 603 on October 4th. This letter is intended to state my views on this bill. I request that you share it with other members of the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee. Given the short timeframe, I am also sending a copy of this letter to you by email.

I am currently chairperson of the board of trustees for the Madison Area Technical College. I have served on this board for the past four years and am appointed as a member at large.

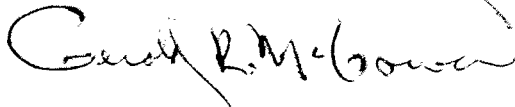
I am opposed to Assembly Bill 603 for several reasons. First of all, less than two years ago the Assembly Speaker's Taskforce to Review the WTCS included the recommendation to "Maintain the current method of appointing members of technical college district boards." This recommendation came after a thorough year-long review of the WTCS including college governance, funding, mission, service, and accountability to taxpayers. I feel that this topic has been studied and that the Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee should adopt these recommendations.

Secondly, current Wisconsin Technical College Boards operate as openly, publicly, and with as much opportunity for public input as any form of local government. Board members follow the same ethics laws as elected officials.

Thirdly, we are held accountable by elected county board chairs who appoint us to our positions. The current process works well and provides for varied backgrounds of board members as well as gender and minority status.

I urge the committee to reject AB 603.

Sincerely,



Gerald R. McGowan, Chairperson
Madison Area Technical College

Cc: Paul Gabriel, Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association



Hub, Brad

From: Randy and Bev Dhein [dheinfam@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2005 9:48 PM
To: Rep.Kreibich
Cc: Rep.Schneider; Rep.Molepske
Subject: 2005 Assembly Bill 603 (Popular Election of Technical College District Boards)
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

September 28, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee

Dear Representative Kreibich,

As chairperson of the Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) District Board, I am writing to express my opposition to 2005 Assembly Bill 603 (Popular Election of Technical College District Boards).

I am currently in my 9th year as a technical college board member. As an "employee" member of the MSTC board, as well as an alumnus of MSTC, I take great pride in my board membership, Mid-State Technical College, and the Wisconsin Technical College System. The current process of appointing technical college board members has worked extremely well since it's inception in 1911. We are currently appointed by a group of elected governing body chairpersons which helps to ensure equal representation of management and labor ("employer" and "employee" members). The current appointment system allows for board positions to be filled with people genuinely interested in nurturing quality vocational education.

Also appointed to each technical college board is a local elected official and a K-12 school district administrator. These specific positions help to promote extraordinary partnerships between technical colleges, local governments, and local school districts.

In my 8+ years of board membership, I have not witnessed one board member display an individual political agenda or the agenda of those who fund political parties and campaigns. Our board seats should not be used as stepping stones for individual political ambitions. Our board seats should be and are filled with local, uncompensated volunteers that are truly college and community focused.

Fiscal responsibility needs to be a requirement of any governing board, appointed or elected. Every technical college district board member that I know takes fiscal responsibility very seriously. The current appointment system allows for board members to come from all walks of life and brings to the table tremendous knowledge of the local economy and an understanding of tax burdens for all income levels. Technical college board members know that our decisions affect each and every taxpayer in our district and we form and adopt our college's budget each year with extreme consideration for both the student and the taxpayer.

In closing, I would like to leave you with a saying that I'm sure you've heard before, but certainly applies to

10/10/2005

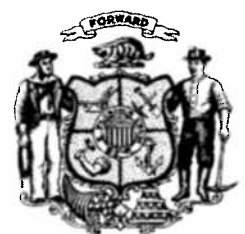
this issue. It's a saying that those of us who wear hardhats and work in manufacturing plants use a lot. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" The 1911 Wisconsin State Legislature had tremendous forethought in creating a board appointment process that continues to work effectively today. Let's not throw their vision and hard work out the door.

Sincerely,

Randall R. Dhein
Chairperson
Mid-State Technical College District Board



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



September 28, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee

Dear Representative Kreibich,

As chairperson of the Mid-State Technical College (MSTC) District Board, I am writing to express my opposition to 2005 Assembly Bill 603 (Popular Election of Technical College District Boards).

I am currently in my 9th year as a technical college board member. As an "employee" member of the MSTC board as well as an alumnus of MSTC, I take great pride in my board membership, Mid-State Technical College, and the Wisconsin Technical College System. The current system of appointing technical college board members has worked extremely well since its inception in 1911. We are appointed by a group of existing governing body chairpersons which helps to ensure equal representation of management and labor ("employer" and "employee" members). The current appointment system allows for board positions to be filled with people genuinely interested in nurturing quality vocational education.

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In my 8+ years of board membership, I have not witnessed one board member display an individual political agenda or the agenda of those who fund political parties and campaigns. Our board seats should not be used as stepping stones for individual political ambitions. Our board seats should be and are filled with local, uncompensated volunteers that are truly technical college and community focused.

Fiscal responsibility needs to be a requirement of any governing board whether appointed or elected. Every technical college district board member that I know takes fiscal responsibility very seriously. The current appointment system allows for board members to come from all walks of life and brings to the table tremendous knowledge of the local economy and tax burdens for all income levels. Technical college board members know that our decisions affect each and every taxpayer in our district and we form and adopt our college's budget each year with extreme consideration for both the student and the taxpayer.

In closing, I would like to leave you with a saying that I'm sure you've heard before but certainly applies to this issue. It's a saying that those of us who wear hardhats and steel-toed work boots to make a living use a lot. "If it ain't broke,

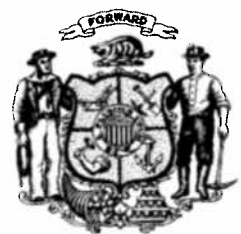
don't fix it!" The 1911 Wisconsin Legislature had tremendous forethought in creating a board appointment process that continues to work effectively today. Let's not throw their vision and hard work out the door.

Sincerely,

Randall R. Dhein
Chairperson
Mid-State Technical College



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Hub, Brad

From: MRB@ RO-AN Corporation [sales@roancorp.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 1:36 PM
To: Paul Gabriel
Cc: Rep.Kreibich
Subject: Elected Board Bill Hearing - Testimony Request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Attachments: Representative Kreibich 092905.doc



Representative
reibich 092905.

Dear Mr. Gabriel:

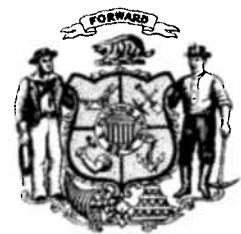
My comments regarding AB 603 are attached.
Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinions.

Sincerely

Ronald L. Bertieri
RO-AN Corporation
Menomonee Falls, WI 53052 USA
Phone: 800-922-1600 - E-Mail: sales@roancorp.com



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





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September 29, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich
Chairperson
Assembly Colleges & Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

RE: Bill: AB603

Dear Representative Kreibich

I am currently on the Board of Trustees at W.C.T.C. (Waukesha County Technical College). I have been on the Board for the past ten years and have held various officer positions including Board Chair. I currently am co-chair on the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee for the Wisconsin Technical College District Boards Association. I am also active at the local level with various organizations relating to economic development as it affects our community and W.C.T.C. On the national level, I am on the Nominating Committee representing the North Central Region for A.C.C.T. (American Community College Trustees).

I have been to Washington D.C. on numerous occasions visiting our Congressmen and Senators and advocating legislation which would aid our State Technical College System.

I am a local business owner who has started and operated a wholesale distribution company in Menomonee Falls, WI for the past 37 years (RO-AN Corporation). I am also President/C.O.O. of a manufacturing company located in Waukesha, WI (Friction Stir Link, Inc.).

I am opposed to Bill: AB603 for the following reasons:

1. Wisconsin Technical College District Boards are Designed for Excellence in Representation and Governance – A proud legacy since 1911; A copied and proven national model
2. Technical College Boards are as Representative as Elected Boards – Geographically, by profession, background, gender, and minority status; As non-political/non-partisan volunteers; Because vacancies can be filled without special elections.
3. Locally Appointed Boards are Part of a Balanced and Accountable State-Local Governance Structure – Local boards are part of effective shared state and local governance; Local boards are only one part of colleges' community input.

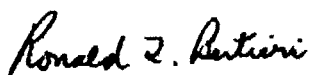
4. Boards Operate as Openly, Publicly, and With as Much Opportunity for Public Input as Any Form of Local Government – Board appointment is a democratic process; Boards operate openly and publicly under the same laws as all local governments; Board members follow the same ethics laws as elected officials.
5. Wisconsin Technical Colleges are a Key Economic Engine and Return More to the Economy than Any Other Publicly Funded Activity – Technical colleges' return on investment and responsiveness is related to local board governance.
6. Wisconsin's Appointed Technical College District Boards are Recognized as National Leaders and Role Models – Volunteer board members are well known nationally for commitment and leadership; Are leaders in quality improvement and in promoting partnership and collaboration.
7. A Comprehensive Legislative Taskforce Review Recommended Maintaining the Current Appointed Boards Model.

I personally would not have the time, or the desire, to be on the Technical College Board of Trustees if I had to go through the political process of becoming an elected official. How many other Community Leaders would feel likewise? How many other dedicated and qualified individuals would be willing to have fundraisers or spend their own money and time to go through the elections process to achieve a non-paid position on a local Technical College Board of Trustees?

Once again, I am asking you to vote "NO" to Bill: AB603.

We currently have an excellent Wisconsin Technical College System, which has been created through the "Appointment Process". Please continue this recognized and proven national model.

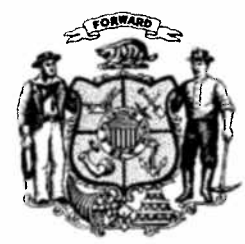
Respectfully yours,



Ronald L. Bertieri



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



Hub, Brad

From: Jim Kreilich [jimk@execpc.com]
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 9:24 PM
To: Musser, Terry
Cc: Rep.Kreibich
Subject: Re: Assembly Bill 603
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

Representative Musser:

Thank you for the courtesy of a reply..I appreciate it. I believe your gracious assistant took my call today and relayed my resistance to your bill 603.

As to AB 603, I fail to see the need to convert the process of Technical College Board members from the present appointed system to an 'expensive' and unneeded popular election process. Your fiscal estimate for added costs of \$159,300 for the SEB the first year, then \$148,700 thereafter..does not make taxpayer sense. I failed to find the estimated total costs that would trickle down to all the districts for each election process..! The total cost seems completely unnecessary when we have a system that obtains valuable 'volunteered' time that is supplied by all the current board members within a system that is working extremely well.

As a Board member at Chippewa Valley Technical College, I was appointed by a panel of 11 different county Board Members that I feel represented our district very well.

I feel an elected process will damage the quality of Board Members in a number of ways.

First, it will reduce the diversity by restricting a portion of population that is unable to afford or spend campaign money to advertise their campaign.

Second, you will have people running for Board positions with a higher priority of politics in their future versus the future of the college advancement as first priority.

Third, being elected or appointed, a four year term is too long before re-applying.

Fourth, I fail to see why the great state of WI needs to spend very scarce TAX dollars for such a process when the dollars would be much more valuable if they were invested in the college infrastructure.

Your quick answer to me is appreciated, but I do not support the current AB 603.

Previous commitments, along with our President's request to 'cut back on gas consumption', will prevent me from attending the hearing next week.

I do plan on contacting Representative Kreibich and will urge him to OPPOSE AB603.

Regards,

Jim Kreilich, Board Member www.cvtc.edu
 2603 West Princeton Ave
 Eau Claire, WI 54703
 715-834-5808

----- Original Message -----

From: Musser, Terry
To: j.kreilich@msm.umr.edu
Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 1:37 PM

10/04/2005

Subject: Assembly Bill 603

Jim,

Thanks for contacting my office about AB 603, which is scheduled for a public hearing on Tuesday, October 4th.

Compensation for the elected board members is not addressed in the bill, but the Fiscal Estimate indicates the need for two additional staff members at the State Elections Board. The bill would have to be amended in order to provide a salary for the elected members.

Here is a link to the Fiscal Estimate: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2005/data/fe/AB-603fe.pdf>

I hope this is helpful, Jim. I was pleased to hear that you plan to send written testimony to Rep. Kreibich.

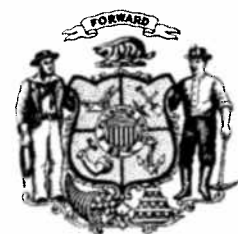
Terry Musser
WI State Representative
92nd Assembly District

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10/04/2005



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





Blair-Taylor School District

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BLAIR-TAYLOR ADMINISTRATION

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Superintendent
608-989-2881

Fax: 608-989-2451

Jeffrey S. Eide
7-12 Principal

608-989-2525

Fax: 608-989-9161

Connie M. Biedron
K-6 Principal

608-989-9835

Fax: 608-989-2451

September 29, 2005

Representative Terry Musser
Room 11 West
State Capitol
P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Musser:

I am writing to offer testimony regarding AB 603, the bill sponsored by you to eliminate district technical college boards and replace them with elected boards. I don't understand the rationale behind the proposal and am troubled by your sponsorship of the bill.

It seems to me that an effort is being made to change a system that has operated since 1911 and is pretty efficient. Through the existing appointment process, colleges are assured representation from across their district boundaries. Diversity in representation is a real strength as the appointment process requires representation of employers, employees, elected local officials and a school district administrator. From my experience as a member of the WWTC board for the past two years I can personally attest to the diversity that exists on our board. The common thread, though, is the concern of each board member for the economic vitality of the region and the desire to create partnerships to keep our economy strong.

Many of the individuals serving on technical college boards, myself included, do so out of a desire to make a positive contribution to the community or region they represent. The present compensation for board members at WWTC is mileage reimbursement for attendance at meetings. On average, our board will meet once a month for a period of 4-6 hours. Additionally, we periodically attend planning sessions and are encouraged to attend a number of activities hosted by the college.

In 2003, the Assembly Speaker's Taskforce to review WTCS, comprised of legislators and citizens from around the state, completed a thorough year-long review of the WTCS including college governance, funding, mission, service and accountability to taxpayers. The Taskforce's final recommendations in November, 2003 included: "Maintain the current method of appointing board members of technical college district boards." My question is, What has changed in the past two years??

I have been pondering over the question of why a change in representation from appointed to elected is needed. The administration of the college is responsible to providing leadership and

BOARD MEMBERS

Duane Schaller, *President*

David Smikrud, *Vice President*

Susan Frederixon, *Clerk*

Fern Aleckson, *Treasurer*

Michelle Weisenberger, *Director*

Dr. Blaine O. Koxlien, *Director*

Randi Arneson, *Director*

direction for the college. Board members function as sounding boards to react to administrative recommendations and see that they fall within current college policy or procedure. Will an elected board do that any differently?

Further, the appointment process works well at WWTC. People who take the time to be considered for appointment to the board are genuinely interested in the workings of the college and have a desire to make the necessary time commitment to serve effectively as a board member. They are familiar with the issues of their area and are sensitive to the needs of taxpayers as well as the importance of the technical college as a primary economic driver in their region. I have a sense that many of these individuals may not be interested in campaigning for an elected office. As a result we may lose a good share of that diverse mix that exists on boards presently. Elected members may also represent the more populated parts of the technical college district and the rural perspective on needs will be lost.

For this and many more reasons, I hope you will reconsider the proposal to change the process for technical college board representation. We have a system in place that is working well. We have a great board at WWTC and I think that sentiment will be echoed in many other colleges across the state. Why change it?

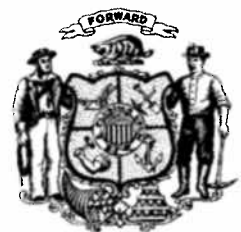
Respectfully,



Guy Leavitt, Superintendent
Blair-Taylor School District
Member of Western Wisconsin Technical College Board



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE



September 29, 2005

Representative Rob Kreibich, Chairperson
Assembly Colleges and Universities Committee
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI. 53708

Dear Representative Kreibich,

I am writing with concerns regarding AB 603, a bill to eliminate WI Technical College Boards as they are today, and replace them with elected boards. It will be before your committee on Tuesday, October 4th at 10:00 a.m. Electing Technical College Boards would not be a prudent move for the following reasons:

1. 1. Present board members are a mix geographically, by profession, background, gender, and minority status. The present mix gives the board of each college equal representation of management and labor, who are knowledgeable about current employment needs. This mix would not be guaranteed with the proposed elected boards.
2. 2. Present board members represent the community and are not political in nature. Large and small areas are all represented. My fear is that an elected board will have a primarily large community representation and the rural areas will be forgotten.
3. 3. There would be considerable cost involved in electing board members. Communities and Technical Colleges alike would be expected to foot the bill. How can you justify increasing the financial load to all concerned, especially in this time of budget trims?
4. 4. The present individual volunteer Technical College boards have a system of checks and balances in place. They are under the WI Technical College System Board (WTCS), that provides state-level strategic direction, accountability, and leadership across the system. At the local level, community-based advisory committees make recommendations to the individual boards and monitor public-private competition. Individual board members already follow the same ethics and financial reporting requirements as elected public officials. They file economic interest statements. Would elected boards have any different or better monitoring?
5. 5. Volunteer Board members are dedicated to their mission. They volunteer time to professional growth and development activities. They also volunteer hours to college and community events. They use personal vacation/leave to attend board development activities. Would elected board members be so generous of their time?

Technical colleges are known to "step up to the plate" quickly to provide a qualified workforce as the need arises. They are the "trainers" of the un-employed/under-employed, especially in times of economic depression. They are quick to meet the training needs of individual manufacturers and service organizations. They are innovative in presenting programs for students 24/7, so that they can work and train

simultaneously. On new economic activity and tax revenues, they create a huge economic return of \$2 in tax revenue for every \$1 of total public investment in just 2.2 years. The present system works. Why change it?

Please share my comments with your committee members on Tuesday. I regret that I cannot appear personally before your committee to voice my concerns. Consideration of the above by you and your committee is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Judith E Wendtlandt
Moraine Park Technical College Board Member
235 N National Avenue
Fond du Lac, WI 54936-1940
Phone: 262-644-7128