

COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

December 2, 1999
Teleconference
Denver, Colorado

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: J. Lamar Allen; *Raymond T. Baker; Terrance L. Farina; Marion S. Gottesfeld; David E. Greenberg; Robert A. Hessler; Peggy G. Lamm; *Ralph J. Nagel, Acting Chair; Dean L. Quamme; and *William B. Vollbracht. (*Present at the Colorado History Museum.)

Advisory Committee Present: Senator John Andrews; Penelope Bauer; Aaron Houston; Sandy Hume; and Representative Keith King.

Commission Staff Present: Timothy E. Foster, Executive Director; Jeanne Adkins; JoAnn Evans; Raymond Keith; and Sharon Samson.

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education was called to order at 10:00 a.m. in Classroom C of the Colorado History Museum in Denver, Colorado.

Action: Commissioner Hessler moved approval of the minutes of the November 4, 1999, Commission meeting. Commissioner Vollbracht seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. Reports

A. Chair's Report

The Acting Chair, Commissioner Nagel, reported that Chair Bracken was excused absent. He had no further report.

B. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Ray Baker stated that the capital assets subcommittee activity during the past month would be presented during the discussion of agenda item IV, A, Capital Construction – Lowry Project/Fitzsimons Project.

Commissioner Vollbracht recommended that the Commission develop an ethical policy whereby the Commissioners will not receive any gifts or benefits over a specified amount to be determined. The Commission will work with the Attorney General's office in the development of an ethics policy for discussion at the next meeting. Commissioner Gottesfeld suggested the ethics policy not exclude such events as programs of excellence.

C. Advisory Committee Reports

No reports.

George Walker, a citizen, reported that he attended the Joint Budget Committee meeting on higher education. He stated that there is a lack of recognition for people of color and women.

III. Consent Items

A. Capital Construction Cash-Funded Programs

Jeanne Adkins reported that the Commission is directed by statute to review and approve program plans submitted for cash-funding spending authority in the Long Bill. This process is required to enable the legislature to review the allocation of cash funds following the passage of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights amendment to the Colorado Constitution. Any project exceeding the \$250,000 statutory threshold on which an institution wishes to spend cash funds from any source must have explicit spending authority granted by the legislature. Program plan approval is necessary as part of that process.

Jeanne Adkins reported that upon approval by the Commission the proposed Capital Construction Cash-Funded Program projects will be referred to the Capital Development Committee. Under the new policy, certain cash-funded projects under \$250,000 will be exempted from legislative spending authority within the Long Bill. Projects exceeding that threshold must have specific spending authority and submit a program plan. The Commission evaluates program plans.

She reported that all CSU program plans included in the Draft 11/17/99 Proposed Cash-Funded Projects for FY 2000-2001 have been approved and there are no longer any pending CSU projects. The Fort Lewis College project review has been completed. The State Board of Agriculture will approve it at their December 8, 1999, meeting for submission to the Commission. The Aims Community College Aviation Simulator project still has cash flow issues. Aims Community College and CCHE staff are working to resolve the spending authority issues.

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission accept staff recommendations on the projects as reflected in Attachment A and refer the approved projects to the Capital Development Committee and the Joint Budget Committee for spending authority inclusion in the FY00-01 Long Bill.

It was the consensus of the Commission to act on Consent Items A and B together.

B. Application for Participation in State-Funded Student Assistance Program

Dr. Sharon Samson reported that application for an institution for participation in the state-funded Colorado student aid program. This is the first time since 1993 that an institution has

sought Commission approval. *College America of Denver* met all CCHE guidelines for initial participation. Staff has received four applications in 1999. The other three applicants have not been in practice for the required two years.

Commissioner Hessler asked for the names of the schools that were not approved. Dr. Samson did not have that information readily available. However, they are proprietary schools and have been advised to continue to operate for two years then reapply for consideration.

Commissioner Quamme asked if subsequent funding comes before the Commission for approval. Dr. Samson responded that institutions operate with \$1,000 the first year, then become fully vested in the financial aid model receiving annual allocations.

Staff Recommendation:

That the Commission accepts College America of Denver as an eligible institution for participation in Colorado's state-funded financial aid programs beginning fiscal year 2000-01.

Action: Commissioner Vollbracht moved approval of the staff recommendations for Consent Items A and B. Commissioner Gottesfeld seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Action Items

A. Capital Construction – Lowry Project/Fitzsimons Project

Jeanne Adkins reported that at the November 4, 1999, meeting the Commission placed capital construction projects at the Lowry Higher Education Center and the Fitzsimons University of Colorado Health Sciences Center on hold awaiting further discussion with the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC). In the intervening time frame several meetings have been held with officials of these systems to discuss the infrastructure projects proposed at both, and the Education Complex facility at Fitzsimons.

Fitzsimons Infrastructure and Education Plans:

Ms. Adkins recommended the Commission delay action on the infrastructure program plan until after the Capital Subcommittee meeting with Fitzsimons representatives on December 6, 1999. The UCHSC has submitted new budget forms and a revision of the infrastructure plan. There are still questions to be addressed about existing year budget and the phasing of the overall utility plan. Other issues to be clarified include the development of site utilization during intermediate phases of construction and the integration of phases III A and B with the decision to privatize the power plant.

UCHSC has agreed to combine Education I and II funding elements together and to place it in the conceptual design project. Ms. Adkins outlined the financial and footage specifications of the project. Wayne Henderson, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance at UCHSC, was

available to respond to the Commission regarding square footage questions. Staff recommend the Fitzsimons Education I and II program plan be approved and referred as the 42nd project on the capital construction project list and subsequent projects be renumbered. The timetable for beginning the construction is not changed by this discussion.

Commissioner Baker suggested that the Commission establish an informal policy requiring that information for Commission consideration be submitted in sufficient time to allow for review of the material prior to Commission meetings.

The Commissioners still need additional information regarding the heating and cooling of the building.

It was the consensus of the Commission to postpone a decision on the Fitzsimons project until after the December 6, 1999, Capital Subcommittee meeting with the UCHSC/Fitzsimons participants.

Lowry Project:

Following a meeting on November 2, 1999, with members of the SBCCOE and representatives of the Lowry HEAT Center, the institution was asked to resubmit a one-year plan to the Commission to accommodate the infrastructure needs for the Northwest quadrant buildings that would be brought into the Aurora municipal system. Ms. Adkins reported that the CCHE staff has reviewed the resubmitted program plan. The plan amendment is predicated on the need to upgrade fire flows and water system needs to serve the existing campus buildings. It is a phased multiple-projects program plan for roadways, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer. The water plan is included in the existing program plan year. First year will be \$5,828,861 in capital construction plus \$2,520,000 cash funds or federal municipal funds.

Dr. Bill Richards, President of HEAT Center at Lowry, reported that the engineering result of 4.5 percent per year cost, \$.5 million, for maintenance and contract fees to maintain the system if initial project is not completed. Executive Director Foster suggested approval of the program plan and addresses the issues of roadways, paving and water later.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Commission approve the Lowry Infrastructure program plan with the following conditions:

1. That SBCCOE/HEAT Center officials address the issue of which roadways will be maintained permanently and which will be vacated to create a generally pedestrian campus;
2. That SBCCOE/HEAT Center officials provide information indicating what costs are incurred if sanitary sewer lines and water mains are not installed simultaneously and why water main improvements are not phased;

3. That SBCCOE/HEAT Center officials provide information indicating what indirect cost recoveries are assessed to users currently for these services and how these indirect cost recoveries might fund future infrastructure;
4. That SBCCOE/HEAT Center officials provide three-year and five-year program enrollment forecasts and outline the methods used to calculate those projections;
5. That SBCCOE/HEAT Center officials provide a corresponding allocation of existing buildings to accommodate those enrollment projections.

Staff recommends that the project be referred to the Capital Development Committee for consideration in the FY00-01 Program Year and prioritized as Project 40.

Action

Commissioner Baker moved approval of the staff recommendation for the Lowry plan as amended. Commissioner Vollbracht seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

V. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

A. Master Plan

Executive Director Foster reported that CCHE is in the process of meeting with governing boards to receive their comments on the Master Plan. To date meetings have been held with the Regents and Trustees of the Colorado School of Mines to obtain their input on the proposed master plan. Suggestions for incorporation in the plan include more discussion about research and graduate studies. All suggestions will be presented to the Commission in a revised master plan. There is some academic debate whether this is an action plan or a master plan. He invited Commissioners to attend the remaining master plan meetings with governing boards.

B. Discontinuance of Academic Programs with Low Demand

Dr. Sharon Samson reported that this agenda item provides the final notification for the degree programs that were identified as low-demand programs in 1997. She noted that governing boards have become increasingly involved with low demand programs that failed to meet CCHE's graduation benchmarks. In the past three years, governing boards have closed 22 degree programs, exempted 27 others, and shifted resources so that 21 programs have experienced enrollment growth and graduated sufficient number of students to meet CCHE's benchmarks. The governing boards have until March 31, 2000, to act on the 34 non-exempt degree programs that are operating below the benchmarks and notify the Commission of the outcome. Dr. Samson explained the next steps in the discontinuance process: (1) The governing boards need to take formal action on the 34 degree programs, either discontinuing or exempting them; (2) The policy allows an institution to provide compelling evidence at the April meeting supporting continuation of non-exempt degree programs; (3) After considering the evidence, the Commission will vote on the staff recommendation regarding low-demand degree programs not handled by governing board action.

Commissioner Lamar Allen commented that the potential of Commission action will cause the boards to make decisions and take action before the April decision. Responding to Commissioner Allen's question on whether any board will ask to exceed the exemption cap, Dr. Samson indicated that at least two boards plan to present evidence. She further noted that if an institution applies for additional exemptions, institutions will be asked to provide information on all exempted, low enrollment programs. Commissioner Nagel supported this approach, noting that the Commission is asking governing boards to make decisions about performance not protection.

Commissioner Vollbracht questioned the benchmarks, specifically why an institution would want to continue to offer a Ph.D. program with only one graduate. Dr. Michel Dahlin, Associate Vice-President of the University of Colorado System, responded that an institution often offers doctoral programs in conjunction with a master's program. The master's may graduate a large number of students while the doctoral only graduates a few. Representing the Colorado School of Mines, Mr. Robert Moore explained that certain baccalaureate and master's degree programs are professional degrees, requiring an additional year of study beyond the traditional bachelor and master's graduation requirements. Such programs are offered to maintain CSM's prestige and ranking and are part of CSM's tradition.

Commissioner Nagel encouraged institutions to look beyond low productivity when deciding which degree programs should continue. Dr. Dahlin responded that the policy only identifies programs with low graduation rates. Commissioner Nagel reiterated his position.

Dr. Lee Halgren, Vice President of the State Colleges, stated that the Trustees take CCHE's Discontinuance Policy seriously and are considering delivery alternatives in conjunction with other board policies (e.g., Coordinated Degree Program Policy).

Commissioner Gottesfeld recommended that the governing boards examine the curriculum of low demand degree programs carefully before requesting additional exemptions.

Commissioner Greenberg suggested that the staff provide a report on approved and discontinued degree programs prior to the April Commission meeting and other relevant material on program duplication from the 1289 study. Commissioner Nagel further suggested that the Commission may wish to revise the benchmarks at the April meeting. The January 2000 agenda will include a report on degree program activity, including certificates and associate degrees.

VI. Written Reports for Possible Discussion

A. Degree Program Name Change Requests

The Commission accepted the report on staff approvals of Degree Program Name Changes. The Executive Director approved the following name change requests in November 1999:

1. Name Change Requested by: Colorado State University

Current Name: Exercise and Sports Science (MS)

New Name: **Health and Exercise Science (MS)**

Approved by: State Board of Agriculture (June 9, 1999)

Rationale:

- The name change reflects the national trend in exercise science to emphasize wellness and health education.

Curriculum Impact:

None

2. Name Change Requested by: Colorado State University

Current Name: Design, Merchandising, and Consumer Science (M.A./M.S.)

New Name: Design and Merchandising (M.A./M.S.)

Approved by: State Board of Agriculture (June 9, 1999)

Rationale:

- The proposed name reflects the graduate program curriculum -- apparel design and merchandising.

Curriculum Impact:

None

B. Report on Out-of-State Instruction

The Commission accepted the report of instruction offered out-of-state beyond the seven contiguous states approved by the Executive Director.

Instruction delivered by the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center:

Multi-Modality Therapies in the Treatment of Lung Cancer to be delivered in Florida September 18, 1999, and at eight additional sites in the continental United States (to be identified later) in October and November 1999.

Instruction delivered by the University of Southern Colorado:

Police Institute Seminar in Executive Assessment and Development to be delivered in Hawaii at the request of the Honolulu Police Department. The course will be offered in two sessions, November 22-24, 1999, and November 29-December 1, 1999.

Instruction delivered by Adams State College:

ED 589, Brain-Based Learning to be delivered in Iowa November 4-7, 1999.

Instruction delivered by Western State College:

A course delivered in cooperation with the Boulder Outdoor Survival School in Africa, *Boss 2000 International Course: Africa*, was previously indicated as a course possibly to be delivered along with five other courses approved for delivery in Canada and Mexico. This course now has been selected to be offered by Western State College in Africa, October 8-21, 2000.

C. Quality Indicator System Report

The Commission accepted the Quality Indicator System Report. Each year in December, the Commission is to report to the Senate and House Education Committees and the governing boards on the past year's activity related to the Quality Indicator System.

Action: Commissioner Baker moved adjournment of the meeting. Commissioner Vollbracht seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.