

COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

April 6, 2000
Colorado History Museum
Denver, Colorado

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Raymond T. Baker; Alexander E. Bracken, Chair; Terrance L. Farina; Marion Gottesfeld; David E. Greenberg; Robert A. Hessler; Peggy Lamm; Ralph J. Nagel, Vice Chair; and Dean Quamme.

Advisory Committee Present: Penelope Bauer; Senator Jim Dyer; Jane Duncan; Calvin M. Frazier; and Sandy Hume.

Commission Staff Present: Timothy E. Foster, Executive Director; Jeanne Adkins; JoAnn Evans; Patty O'Connor; Sharon Samson

I. Call to Order

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

Action: Commissioner Hessler moved approval of the minutes of the March 4, 2000, Commission meeting. Commissioner Quamme seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. Reports

A. Chair's Report

The Chair, Commissioner Alexander E. Bracken, reported that Commissioner Lamar Allen has resigned from the Commission due to family illnesses. The Governor has appointed James M. Stewart of Colorado Springs to complete the term vacated by Dr. Allen. Mr. Stewart has formerly served on the State Board for the Colorado Community and Occupational Education System. Commissioners David Greenberg and Bill Vollbracht were excused absent. Commissioner Vollbracht was unable to participate by telephone as planned due to technical difficulties.

Chair Bracken reported that the Commission and the members of the State Board of Agriculture met for dinner on Wednesday evening, April 5, 2000. The Commission is scheduled to meet with the State Colleges Board at noon on Thursday, April 6, 2000, and plans to meet with the Board of Trustees of the University of Northern Colorado in the future. The Commission will continue the meetings with governing boards. Discuss a variety of issues of mutual concern.

He also reported that Commissioner Gottesfeld has been honored by the University of Denver (DU) by having a room named in her honor at the DU Ritchie Center.

B. Commissioners' Reports

No reports

C. Advisory Committee Reports

Dr. Penelope Bauer reminded the Commission that the Colorado Faculty Advisory Council (CFAC) will meet April 21, 2000, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Tivoli Student Union at the Auraria Campus.

III. Consent Items

None

IV. Action Items

A. Low Enrollment Program Appeals

Dr. Sharon Samson summarized the series of actions that preceded the appeals for low-demand degree programs, beginning in 1996 when the Commission modified the *Policy and Procedures for the Discontinuance of Academic Degree Programs With low Program Demand*. She commended the governing boards for the intervening, strengthening, and discontinuing degree programs. She noted that the governing boards have filed 11 appeals, including four appeals for one-year extensions, two appeals for extensions, four appeals for exemptions beyond those allowable in current policy, and one appeal for a graduate program.

Dr. Samson reviewed the rationale supporting the appeals for extensions, emphasizing that the data indicates it is probable each of these degree programs will meet CCHE benchmarks in that time period. She further explained why the staff did not recommend increasing the number of exemptions allowed in policy.

Dr. Samson concluded her presentation by listing the appeals that the staff did not support. She stated that the appeal process provides an opportunity for the Commission to reconsider and revise its Discontinuance Policy, if it feels it necessary. She offered an example of a possible policy change – to eliminate the thirty-day waiting period between the appeal hearing and discontinuance action – which would align the Low Enrollment, Low Demand Discontinuance Policy with other CCHE policies.

Testimony:

Dr. Marlene Strathe, UNC's Academic Vice President, and Dr. Sandra Flake, Dean of Arts and Sciences, asked the Commission to consider a two-year extension for Black Studies and the Graduate Interdisciplinary doctoral program. Strathe noted that UNC has initiated an extensive review of the degree programs and the number of students enrolling in the programs is increasing. UNC requested an extension to test if UNC can sustain and increase the enrollment. Dean Flake further explained the importance of the Black Studies B.A. program to UNC faculty and students and its role in fostering diversity on the campus. Dean Flake affirmed that UNC would have exempted the Black Studies Degree program if the policy did not prevent requesting one in response to a question from Commissioner Lamm. Commissioner Farina questioned if UNC considered making the program a minor. Dr. Strathe stated that UNC is committed to providing comparable experience if the program is not exempted.

Dr. Lee Halgren, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, supported the opportunities for the State Trustees to exercise a leadership role in the Discontinuance Policy. He noted that the Trustees spent considerable time discussing enrollment programs and evaluating options. They filed appeals on behalf of Surveying and Mapping because of its importance to the construction industry in Colorado and Black Studies because it could not be exempted due to the condition requiring a minimum of one graduate in each of the past three years. Dr. Cheryl Norton, Metro Provost, stated that Metro wished to adjust its exempt list but it needed additional time to increase the visibility and enrollment of the Black Studies and Surveying and Mapping. She noted that Surveying and Mapping is the only degree program in surveying in the state, only one of four degree programs in the western U.S., and that a change in curriculum and licensure procedures will help the program enrollment grow.

Commissioner Bracken questioned why Metro did not place Surveying and Mapping on the exempt list. Dr. Norton responded that Metro exempted the degree programs to protect the maximum number of teacher licensure programs. Responding to Commissioners' questions regarding the reauthorization of African American studies as a teacher preparation program, Dr. Norton indicated that the African American degree program is an important way to recognize the diversity of the Denver community and is requesting an extension to develop new strategies to increase its enrollment and graduation numbers. If the program demand is not justified in two years, the State Trustees will voluntarily discontinue the degree.

Commissioner Gottesfeld stated that the Commission understands why Metro wants to keep the degree program but also is sensitive that insufficient students are enrolled in this degree for many years. She is unconvinced that the enrollment will increase. Commissioner Farina asked if Metro has considered combining low-enrollment degree programs with programs offered on the Auraria campus. Dr. Norton responded that it is important to keep the degree programs open since institutions on the Auraria campus serve different student populations.

Commissioner Quamme asked why both campuses exempted Physics. Dr. Halgren responded that the Commission may see a coordinated degree program proposal in the near future combining Physics at the Auraria campus and a program

coordinated degree program between Adams State and Western State College.

Commissioner Lamm asked why Metro hadn't taken action earlier and been more aggressive in increasing the African American enrollment. Mr. George Walker urged the Commission to strengthen Black Studies degree programs throughout the state.

Dr. Herman George, Jr., UNC Professor, discussed the demographic change of American society, concluding that it would be a mistake to discontinue the Black Studies program. Dr. C. J. White, chairman of the African American Studies Department at Metro, advocated that the Commission consider the value of a program and the mission of the institution, not just the number of students in a program.

Ms. Jill Tietjen, representing the Professional Land Surveyors Board, explained that a licensed land surveyor must do land surveying. The licensing examination gives weight to degree credentials and Metro is the only institution to offer a degree program. Commissioner Lamm asked if a student could become a licensed land surveyor with a Civil Engineering degree. Ms. Tietjen responded that this is possible but most Civil Engineers choose to pursue other professions.

Commissioner Baker observed that the demand in this field is industry-driven, for continuing education, but not necessarily degree-seeking students.

Commissioner Farina moved approval of the one-year extensions for Adams State College, Physics B.S.; University of Colorado at Boulder, Communications MA; University of Colorado at Boulder, Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (M.S.); and Western State College, Physics, BS. Commissioner Quamme seconded the motion. It was unanimously.

Commissioner Farina moved approval of a two-year extension for Adams State College, Geology BS and Colorado School of Mines, Chemistry MS, and a three-year extension for Western State College's Chemistry BS. Commissioner Quamme seconded the motion. The Commission approved the motion unanimously.

Commissioner Farina moved approval to ask the State Trustees to reaffirm their list of exempt degree programs. Commissioner Nagel seconded the motion. Commissioner Bracken amended Farina's motion to change the policy language in section 4.03 to substitute "three graduates in the past three years," replacing "at least one graduate in each of the past three years." Commissioner Hessler seconded the amendment. After the Commission adopted the amended motion to modify the policy unanimously, Commissioner Quamme suggested staff further review the policy and recommend changes that clarify the Commission's interpretation of the policy. He reiterated that the Commission is firm on limiting the number of exemptions to five. Executive Director Foster suggested that the staff examine a different number for large and small institutions.

Commissioner Farina's original motion requesting The Trustees of the State Colleges of Colorado to confirm its list of five exemptions by April 21 passed unanimously.

Commissioner Bracken summarized the Commission's expectations, including the need for a revised list of exemption from Metropolitan State College of Denver and a confirmation from UNC on the African American Studies program. He stated that if a governing board chooses not to limit its exemptions to the maximum mandated in policy either next month or in the future, the Commission will make the final selection to exempt the degree programs.

B. Financial Aid Policy

Dr. Sharon Samson presented the Financial Aid Policy that was discussed at the March 4, 2000, meeting. She confirmed that the purpose of the policy is to provide equal opportunity without regard to family financial level. Under the proposed policy, the Commission has substantive autonomy – the authority to define the goals and parameters – while the institutions have procedural authority to define how to administer the programs under the goals and parameters. Dr. Samson enumerated the policy changes that occurred since the last Commission meeting, including establishing eligibility ceiling for need-based aid as 150 percent of PELL eligibility and adding professional discretion. She provided data that verified that the minimum GPA for merit awards do not impact any degree program adversely; in fact, a percentage of visual and performing arts students qualify with a 3.0 GPA than other program areas. She explained the findings on the definition of full-time graduate status. Of the fifteen states that allocate state funds to support graduate merit awards, they all define full-time status as graduate students enrolled in nine or more credits per term.

Commissioner Hessler moved to approve the policy. Commissioner Nagel seconded the motion.

Dr. Christine Johnson, Vice President of the Community College System, supported the policy revisions and acknowledged the contribution of Patty O'Connor in ensuring a successful policy.

Dr. Michel Dahlin requested two changes to the proposed policy, including expanding the definition of full-time graduate student to consider graduate students who have completed all course work and are registered for at least three credits (thesis credit for four additional semesters). She suggested a change to section 6.02 to remove the minimum amount of fellowship awards because two CU institutions have limited dollars available for graduate fellowships and wish to offer \$500 fellowships instead of covering the cost of tuition. She called for clarification on the implementation timeframe believing that the effective date should be July 1, 2001.

Dr. Samson responded that institutional funds constitute the majority of dollars available for graduate financial aid. CCHE's Financial Aid Policy does not limit the authority of the institution to define its own criteria for institutional funds. If CU wishes to include part-time students as fellowship recipients for awards funded with institutional funds, the policy does not prevent it. The limited amount of state funds available for graduate fellowships supports limiting eligibility to full-time students and providing them sufficient funds to graduate in a timely manner. Dr. Samson further clarified the implementation timeline and confirmed the effective date of July 1, 2000. She explained that a graduate student who already received an award for 2000-2001 could retain their award even if the student does not meet the newly adopted criteria or full-time definition. Recipients of fellowships awarded after July 1, 2000, must meet the qualifying criteria specified in the Financial Aid Policy.

The motion to approve the Financial Aid Policy carried unanimously.

V. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

A. CCHE-Capital Assets Pilot Design Project FY 01-02

There was no discussion of this item due to time constraints. The CCHE-Capital Assets Pilot Design Project FY 01-02 will be discussed by the Commission at the May 4, 2000, meeting.

VI. Written Reports for Possible Discussion

A. Certificates and Degrees Conferred in Public Higher Education 1998-99

The Commission accepted the report on Certificates and Degrees conferred in Public Higher Education 1998-99.

B. Concept Papers:

- (1) The University of Northern Colorado (UNC) a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) and a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT)

The Commission accepted the concept paper for a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) and a Bachelor of Applied Technology (BAT) at the University of Northern Colorado.

- (2) Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies, Fort Lewis College

The Commission accepted the concept paper for a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies at Fort Lewis College.

- (3) Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary/Liberal Arts at Western State College

The Commission accepted the concept paper for a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary/Liberal Arts at Western State College.

C. CCHE-Capital Assets Quarterly Report

The Commission has delegated authority to the executive director, who has subsequently delegated authority to the director of policy and planning, to approve program plans, approve waivers and authorize cash-funded projects Commission guidelines and statutory authority.

The Commission accepted the report on the projects waived in the first quarter of 2000.

D. Degree Program Name Changes Metropolitan State College of Denver

The Commission accepted the degree program name changes that the Executive Director has approved during the past month.

Institution: Metropolitan State College of Denver
Current Program Name: Music Performance (B.A.)
New Name: Music (B.A./B.M.)
Approved by: Trustees of The State Colleges (March 17, 2000)

Rationale:

- To align the degree program with other Music programs offered in Colorado.
- To reduce the number of Music degree programs from three to two.
- To focus the curriculum of the Music majors; students will be able to complete the graduation curriculum required for Music without the extra courses required for an IDP degree.

Scope of Proposed Change:

Merger of degree programs removes Music Performance from low-demand program list.

E. 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:

The Executive Director has approved the following out-of-state instruction:

To be delivered by Adams State College:

- ED 589, *Multicultural Studies/Hawaii* delivered in Hawaii May 19-26, 2000;
- ED 589, *Eye Exercises to Make Learning Easy* delivered in Hawaii July 12-17, 2000;
- ED 589, *Simple Self-Healing Techniques* delivered in Hawaii March 30-April 9, 2000;
- ED 589, *Time to Teach* delivered in Washington February 28, 2000.

To be delivered by Western State College in England, July 15-August 12, 2000:

- HIST 397 or HNRS 397, *The Historical Landscape of England*;
- ENG 397 or HNRS 397, *The Literary Landscape of England*;
- COTH 397, ENG 397, or HNRS 397, *The Dramatic Landscape of England*.

To be delivered by the University of Colorado at Denver:

- EDUC 5836, *Employment Consultant Training Program* to be delivered in Utah February 1-3, 2000; in South Dakota February 8-11, 2000; in North Dakota March 7-9, 2000, and in Montana April 25-27, 2000.

Dakota February 8-11, 2000, in North Dakota March 7-9, 2000, and in Montana April 25-27, 2000.

EDUC 5836, *Paraeducator Supervision Academy* to be delivered in Japan February 10-11 and February 15-16, 2000; in Korea February 17-18, 2000; and in Germany March 9-10, 2000.

Action: Commissioner Hessler moved adjournment of the meeting. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion, and motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.