

COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Colorado History Museum
Denver, Colorado
January 14, 2000

MINUTES

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

Advisory Committee Present: Representative Debbie Allen; Wayne Artis Representing CFAC; Jane Duncan; Sandy Hume; and Representative Keith King.

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

I. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education was called to order at 10:15 a.m. in the Colorado History Museum in Boettcher Auditorium in Denver, Colorado.

Action: Commissioner Hessler moved approval of the minutes of the December 2, 1999, and December 14, 1999 Commission meetings. 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 was excused absent and Wayne Artis was present to represent CFAC.

The chair thanked the Trustees of the Colorado School of Mines, President Ted Bickart, Robert Moore, and John Trefny for hosting a dinner with the Commission at CSM on Thursday evening, January 13.

He reported that on January 6, 2000, the Senate Education Committee confirmed Commissioners Ray Baker, Peggy La Ralph Nagel, and William Vollbracht. On January 13, 2000, Commissioner Dean Quamme was confirmed.

B. Commissioners' Reports

Commissioners Gottesfeld reported that the Bill Daniels Foundation has endowed a scholarship fund to help disadvantaged students attend college. She urged anyone interested in Mr. Daniel's endowment to drop him a note because he is ill.

C. Advisory Committee Reports

Sandy Hume encouraged the Commissions' support of Senator Dottie Wham's proposed legislation to fund K-12 educational capital construction. His hope is that higher education will support the K-12 funding for construction. The efforts to discontinue funding for K-12 capital construction will impact on the funding that would be available for higher education capital construction. Senator Wham's bill will have to go to the public for approval.

Jane Duncan, Colorado Student Association (CSA) representative, reported that on January 21, CSA will hold its legislative breakfast and state of the student address at the state capitol. CSA will present its proposal budget for fiscal year 2000 to the Joint Budget Committee. The proposal will be available on the CSA website after January 27.

III. Consent Items

None

IV. Action Items

A. Higher Education Study Report (HB 99-1289)

Ms. Jeanne Adkins began her presentation by thanking the CCHE staff for their efforts to produce the Higher Education Study Report. The Commission staff have spent the past six months analyzing in-depth the issues and all the staff worked together to produce the study. In the last legislative session, the General Assembly directed the Colorado Commission Higher Education to conduct a two-year study of various elements of the state's higher education system, evaluate the findings of those studies and make recommendations in specific areas to the legislature where change should be implemented. The first phase of HB99-1289 is completed.

Although elements of HB99-1289 have been addressed with annual reports to the General Assembly and the Commission, no general overview of higher education has been conducted for more than a decade.

The first year's report addressed the following questions posed by the General Assembly:

- Where are growth or declines projected to occur in higher education and how is the system prepared to deal with it?
- How will the system meet the needs of Colorado diverse populations, rural and urban?
- Should the statewide student admission standards be changed?
- Can the state's higher education existing physical and human resources be managed more efficiently and more cost effectively?
- Can a voucher system be effectively implemented for funding higher education in Colorado?
- Should the General Assembly consider excluding any or all portions of higher education from TABOR?

The answers to the above questions are addressed in the report overview. Specific issues addressed in the first year study focus on many of the same questions addressed by the Commission in developing a new Higher Education Master Plan.

Ms. Adkins outlined the contents of the study. The staff recommendations are in the sidebar of the study. Following is a brief summary of the key issues addressed in the study:

1. Affordability is not an issue. The General Assembly has made an effort to keep education affordable to all students in Colorado as well as to provide access. The Governor's Opportunity Scholarship instituted this year is another program to assure access. Affordability and access are central issues and should continue to remain a high priority for the Commission and the General Assembly.
2. Exodus of faculty from Colorado. Chapter 13 indicates that Colorado's faculty is not eroding. The average turnover rate in private industry is twelve percent and in Colorado higher education it is lower than 5 percent. The study does not address the impact retirements will have on the faculty turnover. That will be addressed in a later study. There are, however, gender discrepancies in salary.
3. Enrollment fluctuations. Fluctuations in enrollment affect smaller rural institutions in Colorado much more than urban institutions. The report suggests that the Commission look at the enrollment elements and determine future direction. Students enrolled at the more expensive institutions are being subsidized at a higher rate than those in the less expensive institutions.
4. Distance learning. There is an inefficient use of resources and duplication of distance learning services. Higher education should explore ways to share the development and delivery of distance learning services. The system should also explore contracting with a central course developer.
5. Funding for undergraduate and graduate courses. Policies regarding graduate education occupies a disproportionate amount of time at the institution and state level compared to undergraduate education. Only nine percent of the full-time equivalent enrollment is at the graduate level. Resources are dedicated at greater than the nine percent enrollment.
6. Duplication is inevitable in a state with 28 institutions. An interesting statistic is that 50 percent of the degree programs offered on the Auraria Higher Education campus are duplicated. Auraria does an excellent job of not duplicating physical resources, however, program duplication by the institutions on that campus, if addressed, could free resources for new unique programs.

7. Data collection. Institutions and CCHE focused a great deal of time gathering data for this study. A central data repository is not available to provide good information. CCHE, the General Assembly, and governing boards should develop a central data collection process.

8. Remedial education. Remediation of students has increased in Colorado. One-third of the students taking remedial education courses are Colorado residents and many of those students are taking remedial math. It is recommended that students increase their math skills while in high school. This will allow resources going for remediation to be reallocated on campuses. The Commission and the legislature may need to alter remedial education policy.

On behalf of the Commission, Chair Bracken thanked Ms. Adkins and the CCHE staff for the incredible effort to complete the comprehensive study. This is the most comprehensive study of higher education. The Commission has not had opportunity to thoroughly review the study. At this time the Commission is accepting (not endorsing) the recommendations in the study are from the Department of Higher Education and not from the Commission. The Commission will begin to focus on key elements of the study and then develop recommendations on the issues.

Commissioner Farina pointed out that the Commission does not want to give the impression that the Commission has reviewed the report and it does not mean that it does not endorse the recommendations. The Commission needs to thoroughly review the report then begin to focus on the key issues. This is a key point. The Commission received copies of the chapters as they were developed.

Governing boards will receive two copies of the report. The full study will be available to legislators and reporters at request. Copies of the overview and executive summaries will be made available upon request and are available on the web.

Dr. David Clark, representative of the Colorado State University System (CSU) said that the institutions will provide suggestions or recommendations for the study after they have an opportunity to digest the report.

Staff Recommendation

The Commission staff recommends that the Commission refer the first-year analyses and recommendations to the General Assembly as required by C.R.S. 23-1-110.5 with favorable approval.

Action:

Commissioner Greenberg moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Gottesfeld seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Ph.D. in Cognitive Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder

Dr. Ray Kieft reported that the Regents of the University of Colorado requested approval to offer a Ph.D. degree in Cognitive Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder (UCB). Planning for the program has been going on for the past two years. The Commission's review of the concept paper identified no issues or revisions.

The relatively new field of cognitive science is the study of human knowledge. The purpose of the program is to "...provide a formal mechanism for and recognition of extensive interdisciplinary training in cognitive science." This is an interdisciplinary field because many traditional fields contribute to the study of cognitive science. Staff evaluated the proposal along two lines. External experts provided information about where this field is going, the demand for graduates and if this proposed program was up to the task of meeting the demands of this field. The internal evaluation concentrated on the institution's role and mission, the institution's strategic plan, and the university's Total Learning Environment initiative. Staff also examined the priorities of the Regents and UCB for the program, the demand for the program in Colorado, if unnecessary duplication existed, and the resources required to sustain the program. All aspects of the evaluations were positive.

Staff found the program consistent with the role and mission of UCB. The Regents and the university have allocated necessary resources to assure the program will be successful. The quality of and reputation of the faculty is outstanding. The curriculum is rigorous and builds on the international reputation of the Institute for Cognitive Science. This program is not duplicated in Colorado.

Since the courses are offered only in one other institution west of the Mississippi. Representative Allen asked for

clarification on the value of the degree. Dr. Kieft responded that many major employers are interested in graduates of program and it will be a valuable addition to the program offerings in Colorado. It is a cutting edge program.

Commissioner Farina clarified that there are minimal cost implications to the addition of the program. The resource base already exists at the campus through the Institute for Cognitive Science. The faculty and facilities are already there and courses are already offered.

Chair Bracken stated that the Commission is very critical and extensive in its review of Ph.D. programs because they are expensive.

Dr. Carol Lynch, Dean of the Graduate School at UCB, stated that this degree program builds on an existing interdisciplinary certificate program. The Ph.D. will attract students. The impetus for the program actually came from students because the degree makes them more marketable and attractive.

George Walker, citizen, stated his interest in seeing that the program provides access to minorities and women.

Dr. Robert Siever, Regent of the University of Colorado, stated that the degree is a field of how people study and learn. The Regents believe the degree is important to the future study of learning. It is a high quality program. The Regents are supportive of providing opportunity for minorities and women.

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission approve the request to offer a Ph.D. in Cognitive Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Action: Commissioner Hessler moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

V. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

A. Consumer Guide to Colorado's Colleges and Universities

Ms. Jeanne Adkins reported that the *Consumer Guide to Colorado's Colleges and Universities* is in final draft form. It will be available on the web. Staff learned some overview issues while preparing the Guide:

1. Not all the information CCHE collects is relevant to the consumer. Therefore, the Guide is a distilled version of information relevant to students. The information is not as complete as everyone would like. The Guide was produced prior to receiving the 1289 study data and the 1999 Quality Indicator System data. As the Guide is revised the updated data will be integrated. The staff is working with the Department of Labor to jointly produce an internet site to provide information to the public.
2. This is not meant to be defined as "all you need to know" to go to school in Colorado. There is a variety of information available and the intent of the Guide is to provide students and their parents with avenues to locate the information.

Representative Allen asked if the Guide included information about graduates working in the field. Ms. Adkins reported that institutions currently do not retain statistical information regarding student job placement. Two-year institutions graduate placement information. Post-graduation data will be collected by institutions and reported in future iterations of the Guide.

Commissioner Greenberg commended the staff on the report and inquired about the classification of UCCS in the Guide. Dr. Samson reported that the Carnegie classifications cluster institutions into several categories. The Carnegie classifications will be used later. Commissioner Vollbracht would like to see the Governor's Opportunity Scholarship included in the financial aid section of the Guide. Ms. Adkins said this was an oversight and will be included in the final draft.

Commissioner Hessler complimented the staff on the Guide and supports distribution to the high school counselors. Staff have received a number of calls from high schools for the information in the Guide. 35,000 copies of the Guide will be provided to high schools in the state. Representative Allen also commended the staff for developing the Consumer Guide.

Dr. Michel Dahlin, representative of the University of Colorado, stated that the University objects to the classification UCCS. It is misleading to parents and students. The administration believes that all the CU campuses are similar, although unique. She recommended that the staff use the traditional grouping of the institutions which CCHE has used in Representative King, recommended adjusting the classification of UCCS in the Guide because the Carnegie classification does not adequately express the role and mission of UCCS. Commission members asked Ms. Adkins to revise the title indicate that universities were included first for that section, but not to change the design at this point.

The Guide will be available on the CCHE site in the next week. There will be a joint website later with the Department Labor.

Staff Recommendation

Commission staff recommend approval of the Consumer Guide to Colorado's Colleges and Universities and encourage the placement of the information on the CCHE Website as soon as feasible.

Action:

Commissioner Farina moved approval of the staff recommendation with the amendment to include the Governor Opportunity Scholarship Program and change the classification of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Commissioner Quamme seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

VI. Items for Information and Possible Discussion

A. Report on Out-of-State Instruction

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

1. Instruction to be delivered by Adams State College:

ED 489/589, Mayans of the Yucatan: History and Myth for Classroom Teachers delivered June 2-16, 2000, in Mexico.

ED 589, Mundo Maya: The Land Where Stones Speak delivered June 2-24, 2000, in Mexico.

2. Instruction to be delivered by the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center:

Fifth Annual National Urology Review sponsored by the School of Medicine to be delivered December 11-12, 1999, in Illinois.

B. Concept Paper

(1) Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Astronomy at the University of Colorado at Boulder

The Commission accepted the concept paper for a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree in Astronomy at the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Action:

Commissioner Quamme moved adjournment of the meeting. Commissioner Greenberg seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.