

COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE MEETING

May 29, 2003
Colorado Commission on Higher Education Office
Denver, Colorado

MINUTES

Commissioners

Present: Peggy Lamm, Chair; and Gully Stanford

Commissioners

On Teleconference: Judith Altenberg; Ray Baker; Terrance Farina; "Pres" Montoya; Ralph Nagel; Dean Quamme; James Stewart; Bill Vollbracht; Judy Weaver.

Advisory Committee

On Teleconference: Wayne Artis; and John Buechner.

Commission Staff

Present: Tim Foster; JoAnn Evans; Jim Jacobs; Joan Johnson; Bridget Mullen; Joan Ringel; and Rich Schweigert.

I. Call to Order

The special teleconference meeting of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education was called to order at 3:20 p.m. in Conference Room B at the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Office, 1380 Lawrence Street in Denver, Colorado. A quorum was present.

The single agenda item for this meeting was the proposed 2003-2004 Tuition Increases.

II. Action Item

Executive Director Foster reported that he and Commissioners met with the Chief Executive Officers of each of the state's higher education governing boards and their trustees to gather institution specific information about financial needs for the coming year and to review the Governor's veto message. At the suggestion of out-going president of the Colorado State University System, Dr. Yates, instead of looking only at a tuition increase, the review included looking at mandatory student fees in order to analyze the combined effect of any increase on students.

As a result of increased revenue shortfalls in FY 2003 and anticipated shortfalls for FY 2004, the General Assembly approved a 10% tuition increase for all governing boards to mitigate some of the General Fund reductions institutions have received over the past two fiscal years. With concern for the citizens of Colorado and their ability to afford to attend college, the Governor vetoed Footnote 53 authorizing governing boards to increase resident tuition by 10%. The Governor directed the Commission in consultation with the governing boards to develop a tuition increase plan.

Bridget Mullen presented the CCHE staff analysis regarding proposed FY 2004 resident tuition increases.

Commissioner Weaver asked for a clarification on the University of Southern Colorado's tuition and the commitment by the Board of Governors for the Colorado State University System to share resources with USC.

Ed Bowditch, Vice President for Administrative Affairs, responded to Commissioner Weaver and provided background. He stated that the institutions have been sharing faculty. He stated that the Board of Governors approved a 10% tuition increase for CSU and 8% for USC.

Staff Recommendation

Staff has received feedback from all the institutions on the proposed tuition and fee increases and believes that overall proposed resident tuition and fee increases are reasonable for FY 2004 as presented in Attachment C with the exception of the University of Colorado – Colorado Springs, the University of Colorado – Health Sciences Center, Colorado State University, Fort Lewis College, Mesa State College and the University of Southern Colorado. It is important to note that this item is an analysis of across the board resident tuition and fee increases and does not include Quality for Colorado at the University of Colorado – Boulder or other tuition differentials that were previously approved by the Commission.

Given the significant decreases in General Fund support over the past two fiscal years, staff believes that a tuition and mandatory student fee increase equal to inflation is too small for all governing boards in FY 2004. **Staff recommends that the Commission consider resident tuition and fee increases of no more than twice inflation, or 6.0 percent, for the Community Colleges of Colorado and the four-year institutions, which include Adams State College, Mesa State College, Metropolitan State College of Denver, Western State College, the University of Southern Colorado and Fort Lewis College. For the research institutions, including all campuses of the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado and the Colorado School of Mines, staff recommends resident tuition and fee increases of no more than three times inflation, or 9.0 percent. The Commission accepts the following institutions tuition and fee increases at:**

- Community Colleges of Colorado at 5 %
- Adams State College at 4.1%
- Western State College at 3.4%
- Metropolitan State College of Denver at 4.3%
- Colorado School of Mines at 8.2%
- University of Northern Colorado at 8.7%
- University of Colorado – Denver at 8.5% and 8.6%
- University of Colorado – Boulder at 8.5%, 8.9%, 8.7% and 8.6%

Action: Commissioner Montoya moved approval of the staff recommendation with an amendment to approve a 10% tuition increase at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Action: Commissioner Quamme moved to adjourn. The special meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.