

COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

November 6, 2003
College Union
Fort Lewis College
Durango, Colorado

MINUTES

Commissioners

Present: Judith Altenberg (via telephone); Ray Baker, Chair; Terrance L. Farina, Vice Chair; Richard L. Garcia; Dean Quamme; Gully Stanford; James Stewart; and Judy Weaver.

Advisory Committee

Present: Ryan McMaken.

Commission Staff

Present: Timothy E. Foster, Executive Director; JoAnn Evans; Carol Futhey; Joan Johnson (via telephone) and Richard Schweigert.

I. Call to Order

Chair Ray Baker called the regular meeting of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHÉ) to order at 10:10 a.m. in the Memorial Student Lounge, in the College Union at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado.

Action: Commissioner Quamme moved approval of the minutes of the October 2, 2003, meeting. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

II. Reports

A. Chair's Report

Chair Baker thanked Commissioner Farina for chairing the October Commission meeting. He also excused Commissioners Altenberg, Montoya, Quamme and Stevinson, however, they attempted to participate by teleconference.

Chair Baker reported that the legislative agenda for the Commission will be the opportunity to discuss the College Opportunity Fund. The continuing linkage with K-12 will be a priority for the Commission. He reported that he has received positive feedback on the linkage with K-12, and the Chair supports continuing to strength the relationship.

B. Commissioners' Reports

No report.

C. Advisory Committee Reports

No report.

D. Public Comment

No comments.

III. Consent Items

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

The Commission is directed by statute to establish the eligibility guidelines and determine the institutions eligible for participation in the Colorado student aid program. CCHE staff reviewed the application and supporting material submitted by Johnson and Wales University and determined that Johnson and Wales met the Commission's guidelines for initial participation in state-funded student assistance program. The staff recommended that the Commission accept Johnson and Wales University into the state financial aid program.

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission accepts Johnson and Wales University as an eligible institution for participation in Colorado's state-funded financial aid programs beginning fiscal year 2003-04.

Action: Commissioner Farina moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

IV. Action Items

A. Colorado Declaration on Higher Education

Commissioner Farina reported that the Colorado Declaration on Higher Education is an expanded vision statement for higher education developed during discussion at the Commission 2003 Advance held with representatives of the higher education governing boards. The theme of the Advance focused on K-12/higher education linkage. The Commission will invite all higher education systems, local school boards, business organizations, and other organizations.

Commissioner Farina and Commissioner Stanford made minor editorial changes to the declaration. Commissioner Farina stated that the 178 school boards, business groups and civic groups would come together in a unified voice to support education for Colorado residents, to move forward during a time of shrinking funding.

Staff Recommendation

That the Commission approve the Colorado Declaration on Higher Education.

Action: Commissioner Stanford moved approval of the Colorado Declaration on Higher Education. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The motion was modified to show that the Declaration was adopted by the Commission on November 6, 2003, and the Commission recommends consideration and adoption by the signatories.

B. Revisions to Remedial Policy

Dr. Carol Futhey reported that by statute (C.R.S. 23-1-113.3), the Commission's role and responsibilities with regard to remedial education are defined in five areas: 1) adopt and implement a remedial policy; 2) develop funding policies for remediation appropriate to institutional roles and missions; 3) design a reporting system that provides the General Assembly with information on the number, type, and costs of remediation; 4) establish comparability of placement or assessment tests; and 5) ensure each student identified as needing remediation is provided with written notification regarding cost and availability of remedial courses.

Four areas were reviewed by staff in collaboration with representatives from governing boards and institutions since June 2003:

- (A) **Statewide Mathematics Cut Score:** Three tests were approved by the Commission in June 2003 for the purpose of entry- and secondary-level assessment: the ACT Assessment Test, the College Board Scholastic Aptitude Test, and the College Board Accuplacer. The minimum passing scores for college-level

placement in mathematics, writing and reading were set in August 2000 at 19, 18 and 17 on the ACT Assessment Test respectively. A pilot project to set a new mathematics cut score based on student success in college-level mathematics was implemented but did not provide the appropriate basis for recommending a revised score at this time.

Staff recommendations:

1. The statewide minimum cut score for college-level placement on the ACT Assessment is a mathematics subscore of 19.
2. Institutions provide course and student registration data files to CCHE beginning in fiscal year 2005 that will serve as the basis for Colorado-specific evaluation of cut scores and the study of remediated student success in courses. CCHE and governing board/institutional staff will collaborate to define the file elements and submission schedule.

- (B) **Concordances:** In order to equate SAT subscores to ACT subscores, the concordances for each of the subjects were produced by Commission staff based on FY 2003 Undergraduate Applicant File submissions using an equipercentile methodology. Existing concordances were used to equate the recommended ACT cut scores and Accuplacer scores as CCHE does not currently collect these data.

Staff recommendation:

The Commission adopt the test score concordances between ACT, SAT, and Accuplacer found in the Remedial Education Policy.

- (C) **Student Population to be Assessed:** The original undergraduate student population to be subject to entry-level assessment and possible remediation were first-time undergraduates and includes first-time degree-seeking students and non-degree-seeking undergraduates changing to degree-seeking status. No changes are recommended to these student populations. The proposed change here was an adjustment to the June 2003 action by the Commission by limiting non-degree-seeking students to recent high school graduates.

Staff recommendation:

Assessment, and where necessary, remediation of non-degree-seeking students be limited to recent high school graduates, as defined above, in addition to those converting to degree-seeking status.

- (D) **Mandatory Student Placement Issues:** The Commission approved in June 2003 that students must be placed in remediation if minimum cut scores were not met, and that students must fulfill such coursework, if needed, before a four-year institution may admit the transfer student. Since then, two issues were raised: 1) Alternatives to test scores be considered for secondary-level assessment; and 2) the timing of remediation and the need for student participation during the first 30 credit hours.

Staff recommendations:

1. Assessed students not meeting the specified minimum cut score may be placed in college-level courses provided that a student's transcript(s) or secondary-level assessment justifies such placement.
2. Institutions implement mandatory advising of students with unmet basic skills deficiencies after 30 hours. Until remediation is completed or a student meets the remedial requirements through an exemption, a student's registration will be blocked each term, and the student must meet with an academic advisor to be counseled about the need to complete remedial coursework in the earliest possible term.

Dr. David Svaldi, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Adams State College, presented an overview of the effort of Adams State College regarding helping students become better prepared for college.

Commissioner Weaver raised the concern about the policy requirement for mandatory advisement and a process to accomplish the task with limited budgets.

Dr. Jack Burns, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Research for the University of Colorado system, complimented the CCHE staff for working collaboratively with the higher education community to revise the policy. The University of Colorado supports the revised Remedial Policy.

Mary Beth Susman, Vice President for Instruction at the Colorado Community College System, testified in support of the revisions to the Remedial Policy approved by the Commission in June 2003. She suggested that the policy allow for a variety of avenues for advising and not be limited to one-on-one advising (Section 2.03.02) because of limited resources at some community colleges. She recommended that the wording in the policy be changed to "the student be advised."

Commissioner Weaver responded that although institutions are challenged due to financial limitation, she encouraged institutions to

review the process of advising students. The individual student contact with an advisor helps students succeed.

Staff Recommendations

1. The Commission approve the revisions to the Remedial Policy, effective fiscal year 2005.
2. An evaluation of the policy should be submitted to the Commission no later than March 2007.

Action: Commissioner Quamme moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Five-Year Capital Construction Plans, Vacant Buildings Report, and Cash-Funded Capital Construction Projects

Joan Johnson reported that state statute requires the Commission to request annually from each of the eleven governing boards a five-year projection of capital development projects (23-1-106(6)). Section 23-1-106(7) then requires the Commission to establish a unified five-year capital improvement program coordinated with education plans and to transmit to the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, the Governor, and the General Assembly, a recommended priority list for funding capital projects for Colorado's system of public higher education.

In accordance with the above statute, the FY 04-05 Five-Year Capital Improvements Program total number of projects is 198 over the five-year period for a total of \$665 million in state funds.

During the 2003 legislative session, the General Assembly and the Governor approved SB 03-34, which requires each institution of higher education to submit annually to CCHE and the Department of Personnel Administration (DPA) a facilities management plan or update on vacant facilities. The statute then requires the commission to make recommendations on these plans to the DPA. DPA then forwards the compiled reports to the Office of State Planning and Budgeting and the Capital Development Committee.

As this year is the first year for these plans and reports, the system is being refined. The report is a compilation of 47 vacant or semi-vacant facilities at eight institutions with a replacement value of \$179 million. Colorado State University removed eight facilities from their list since the printing of the agenda.

In addition, the Commission was asked to approve five cash-funded program plans for FY 04-05 for:

Colorado State University

1. Regional Biocontainment Laboratory	\$23,961,000
2. Atmospheric Science Chemistry Addition	\$ 2,500,000
3. Hughes Stadium Expansion	\$14,206,267

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

1. Science/Engineering Building, Phase 1	\$23,200,000
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University of Colorado Health Sciences Center/Fitzsimons

1. Building 500 Building Renovation, Phase 3	\$ 9,000,376
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Staff Recommendation

1. That the Commission approve the Five-Year Capital Improvements Plan and forward it to the CDC, OSPB, and the Governor;
2. That the Commission approve the Vacant Buildings report and forward it to State Buildings;
3. That the Commission approve the following cash-funded projects for FY 04-05 and forward these projects to the Capital Development Committee for consideration:
 - CSU – Atmospheric Science Chemistry Addition \$ 2,500,000
 - CSU – Hughes Stadium Expansion \$14,206,267
 - CSU – Regional Biocontainment Laboratory \$23,961,000
 - UCCS – Science/Engineering Building, Phase I \$23,200,000
 - UCHSC – Fitzsimons/Building 500 \$ 9,000,376
4. That the Commission attach this condition to approval of the UCCS Science/Engineering Building, Phase I:
 - UCCS inform CCHE of the programs that will occupy Phase I of the Science/Engineering Building before construction begins.

Action: Commissioner Stewart moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Stanford seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

V. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

A. 2003 Legislative Report on Teacher Education

There was no discussion of the 2003 Legislative Report on Teacher Education.

B. Statewide Business Articulation Agreement

There was no discussion of the Statewide Business Articulation Agreement.

VI. Written Reports for Possible Discussion

A. Report on Out-of-State Instruction

The Commission accepted the report on out-of-state instruction as follows:

The Board of Regents of the University of Colorado has submitted a request for an out-of-state instructional program to be delivered by the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

- “24th Annual Jackson Hole Urologic Conference," described herein as an out-of-state instructional program to be presented in Jackson Hole, WY on January 31 – February 6, 2004.

Adams State College Board of Trustees has submitted a request for an out-of-state instructional program to be delivered by Adams State College.

- ED 589: Mastery Math/Tough Math. The dates for this course in Davenport, Iowa are August 4-6, 2003.
- ED 259/589: Anatomy of Possibility. The dates for this course in Farmington, New Mexico are October 29, 2003, through November 12, 2003.
- ED 589: Mentoring Strategies. The date for this course in Farmington, New Mexico is November 8, 2003.
- ED 589: Teaching Struggling Readers. The dates for this course in Farmington, New Mexico are October 7, 2003, through April 6, 2004.
- ED 589: Using CLIP with Struggling Readers. The dates for this course in Farmington, New Mexico are October 7, 2003, through April 6, 2004.

B. FTE Service Area Exemptions

The Commission accepted the report on FTE service area exemptions approved by the Executive Director.

C. 2004 Legislative Report on Remedial Education

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) is required to prepare an annual report on students taking basic skills courses at Colorado's public higher education institutions. The report summarizes data on remediated students collected from Colorado public higher education institutions on students assigned to college- vs. remedial courses for two years. The report will be submitted to the Senate and House Education Committees, the Joint Budget Committee, the Colorado Department of Education, and each Colorado public school district superintendent.

Assessment data for enrolled undergraduates included detailed data that compared college – vs. remedial placement for FY 2002 graduates with those for FY 2003. Among the findings were:

- Approximately 33% of all students evaluated for assessment purposes in FY 2003 were assigned to remediation in at least one discipline. More than half of those remediated were deficient in one discipline, with the most common area being mathematics. Twenty-two percent were found needing remediation in all three areas.
- Of those assigned to remediation, the largest share (50%) was deficient in one discipline. The proportion assigned to remediation in mathematics, writing, and reading was 25%, while 86% were found to be deficient in mathematics, either solely or in combination with writing and/or reading.
- Highest college-placement rates were associated with white students who completed a precollegiate curriculum (83%); rates were lowest for African-American students (48%).
- College-level placement according to school district setting is greatest for those located in outlying towns at 87.6%. The Denver Metro area is the lowest at 79.8%.
- Generally speaking, the highest college-level placement rates were associated with graduates from smaller school districts, with the largest districts showing a rate of 10 percentage points less.
- A map portraying the distribution of recent high school graduates assigned to remediation by the county where the high school showed that the counties with the highest concentration are found largely along the Front Range, the highest densities extend across the south central portion of the state.
- First-year retention rates for first-time, full-time, degree-seeking assessed students at four-year institutions assigned to college-level courses was nearly 16 percentage points higher than that for students assigned to at least one remedial class. In the two-year sector, the difference was only four percentage points, but it should be noted that this cohort represents a very small proportion of students entering the two-year schools.
- Data on the number of students assigned to remediation by school district documented that, statewide, the rate for students graduating from public high schools who entered public higher education the next year was 26.6% for FY 2003, up from 25.1% FY 2002.
- For FY2003, Colorado public higher education reported that 6,004 FTE students were enrolled in remedial courses. The estimated cost

associated with these enrollments ranged between \$18.9 and \$21 million.

D. Presentation of Consolidated Financial Statements

Richard Schweigert, CCHE Chief Financial Officer, reported that in October 2003, the Commission adopted a new policy requiring higher education governing boards to produce and review consolidated financial statements. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that governing boards review the complete financial condition of the institution they oversee, by using a business-based standard that looks at all revenue and relevant expense sources. Each school or system will produce a consolidated income and balance sheet statement. The Commission directed governing boards to review the statements on a quarterly basis during the fiscal year.

The use of business statements will allow governing board members to make financial decisions based on the complete financial condition of the institution. The use of this new standard should help board members ensure that their respective institutions are financially healthy and viable operations.

The first official round of the first official financial reports from the campus chief financial officers will be December 2003. This will allow the governing boards to start the 2004-year with fresh financial statements that are driven by government accounting standards board.

Steve Schwartz, Vice President for Business and Finance at Fort Lewis College, and Brad Baca, Vice President of Finance and Administration, at Western State College, outlined the financial statements that each institution developed.

E. CCHE-Capital Assets Quarterly Reports (Waivers, Cash, SB 92-202, and Other Projects; and Leases)

The Commission has delegated authority to the executive director, who has subsequently delegated authority to the director of capital assets, to approve program plans for SB 92-202 projects, grant waivers from program planning for projects costing \$500,000 or less, and authorize cash-funded projects within Commission guidelines and statutory authority. Delegated authority extends to lease approval.

The Commission accepted the Capital Assets Quarterly Reports.

Action: Commissioner Farina moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:12 p.m.