# **COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

February 5, 2004 University of Colorado Health Sciences Center Fitzsimons Campus Aurora, Colorado

## MINUTES

Commissioners

Present: Judith Altenberg; Raymond T. Baker, Chair; Terrance L. Farina, Vice Chair; Richard

L. Garcia; Pres Montoya (via telephone); Greg C. Stevinson; and James M. Stewart

(via telephone).

**Advisory Committee** 

Present: Wayne Artis and Ryan McMaken.

Commission Staff

Present: Timothy E. Foster, Executive Director; Carol Futhey; Diane Linder; Lucille Montoya;

Bridget Mullen; and Richard Schweigert.

## I. <u>Call to Order</u>

Chair Ray Baker called the regular meeting of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to order at 10 a.m. in the Nighthorse Campbell Native Health Building at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, Fitzsimons Campus in Aurora, Colorado.

<u>Action</u>: Commissioner Garcia moved approval of the minutes of the January 9, 2004, Commission meeting. Commissioner Altenberg seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

## II. Reports

# A. Chair's Report

The Chair, Ray Baker, reported that Commissioners Quamme, Vollbracht, and Weaver were excused absent.

Chair Baker introduced Dr. Elizabeth Hoffman, President of the University of Colorado, and thanked her for hosting the February Commission meeting. Dr. Hoffman briefly welcomed the Commission and the higher education community to the Fitzsimons Campus. In her brief presentation Dr. Hoffman pointed out that the Ben Nighthorse Campbell building is largely funded through grants from the federal government and is a wonderful building that reflects many themes of Native American culture. She thanked the Commission for their tremendous support for the construction of this campus. The approvals have been essential to moving this process forward both of our program plans but also of the certificates of participation last year.

Jay Gershen, Executive Vice Chancellor of the UCHSC Fitzsimons campus, spoke on behalf of Chancellor Shore. He welcomed the Commission to the Fitzsimons campus and stated that the support that CCHE has given and guidance with regard to developing their master plan and approvals of the various structures is very much appreciated.

## B. Commissioners' Reports

Chair Baker reported that a Capital Development Committee meeting is scheduled for next week and he will be more than happy to bring the results of the meeting to the Commission.

## C. Advisory Committee Reports

None

## D. Public Comment

Mr. George Walker reported that it was Black studies month and spoke about his concern for the people of color at the University of Colorado. Mr. Walker's main concern related to the fiscal crisis in higher education and its impact on affirmative action.

## E. Presentation on Support for Higher Education (S.H.E)

Mr. Sergio Gonzales, one of the Chairs for the newly founded Support for Higher Education (S.H.E.), which includes the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State College of Denver, and Community College of Denver, made a brief presentation on what students are doing about higher education in Colorado and their concern over the lack of funding that has been given to higher education in the last few years. Mr. Gonzales is also the Intercampus Student Forum Chair, representing the University of Colorado System.

S.H.E. is a coalition of student governments from the University of Colorado System and other Colorado public institutions of higher education that have come together to ensure economic access to higher education in years to come.

Mr. Gonzales made an announcement inviting everyone to a rally that is to be held on February 6, 2004, at 1 p.m. at the state capitol. He encouraged everyone to attend to voice support for higher education.

Commissioner Baker asked Mr. Gonzales if there has been any activity directed to the Governor's Opportunity Scholarship Program. Mr. Gonzales indicated that the goal of the campaign was not directed toward the GOS program or development of enterprise status.

## III. Consent Items

None

## IV. Action Items

## A. 2004 Report on Newly Approved Degree Programs

Dr. Carol Futhey requested Commission approval on transferring seven programs from the responsibility of the Commission to their respective governing boards. The agenda item documents that of the 34 programs that have been implemented since 1998, most are at the baccalaureate level and primarily from the CU System.

The agenda item focused on nine programs specifically requiring Commission action: seven programs were recommended for full program approval. Two programs, with the concurrence of the representatives from the CSU and CU governing boards, were recommended for provisional status: the Ph.D. in Clinical Science and the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering. The criteria used to make that determination are a comparison of the projected number of majors and graduates that are included when a program proposal is submitted to the Commission with the actual that has evolved over the last five years.

Executive Director Tim Foster stated that, for purposes of assisting some of the new Commissioners, CCHE's approach is not one of second-guessing what institutions offer, but forcing their hand when students don't take these majors and then the number of program graduates drops off. Mr. Foster asked Dr. Futhey to describe what happens if these programs are not successful and yet continue to enroll students. The evaluation of low demand is a process that goes hand-in-glove with what the Commission just did in terms of initially approving them.

Dr. Futhey responded that once the responsibility shifts to the governing board, the Commission monitors on a more limited basis for low demand programs. What will be presented in April are recommendations on programs that passed the five-year point and do not demonstrate necessary student demand based on graduates. The numbers for that report are a comparison of actual graduates with statewide benchmarks by degree level (e.g., at the baccalaureate level, there are 10 awards per year or 20 over a three-year period). If the actual number of graduates is below the benchmark, CCHE staff recommend that a program be placed on the low demand list, and if the number of graduates does not improve, staff may recommend possible discontinuation. The process is a way of tracking demand on a long-term basis.

## Staff Recommendation

That the Commission approve full degree status for the following programs:

- University of Colorado Boulder B.S., Environmental Engineering
- University of Colorado Boulder B.A., Women's Studies
- University of Colorado Colorado Springs B.S., Mechanical Engineering
- University of Colorado Colorado Springs M.S., Mechanical Engineering
- University of Colorado Denver B.S., Psychology
- University of Colorado Health Sciences Center Pharm.D. Pharmacy
- Colorado State University M.S., Cell and Molecular Biology

<u>Action</u>: Commissioner Altenberg moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

# B. <u>2004-2005 Student Financial Aid Budget Parameters</u>

Diane Lindner reported that the 2004-2005 Student Financial Aid Budget Parameters establishes student budget parameters for the year 2004-2005 and is an annual agenda item. It assists the financial aid offices throughout the state, especially those who participate in state-funded financial aid in setting their cost of attendance. It also meets federal requirements that cost of attendance be set consistently for students. There are two components to determine financial aid need. The cost of attendance includes the tuition and fees at the institution along with the budget parameters.

## **Staff Recommendation**

That the Commission approve the 2004-2005 Student Financial Aid Budget Parameters.

<u>Action</u>: Commissioner Farina moved approval of the staff recommendation. Commissioner Altenberg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

#### V. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

## A. New Merit Aid Distribution Method

Diane Lindner and Bridget Mullen presented a policy change to the state-funded merit aid for consideration by the Commission. The proposed changes, under the umbrella of a Centennial Scholarship, include ratcheting up the existing eligibility requirements to a 3.75 GPA for a first-time award and a 3.5 GPA for award renewal. Philosophically, the Commission has been committed to providing increased access to postsecondary education; one important way that goal has been achieved is by funding need-based aid that opens access for the lowest income students in the state. The vast majority of the funding for financial aid in Colorado goes to need-based aid and in fact about 26,000 students received need-based aid in FY 2003. From a policy perspective, merit aid is an important component of the state's financial aid policy. Students who work hard and have high academic achievement should be rewarded for that work and achievement.

Commissioner Farina questioned raising the eligibility criteria next year to a 3.75 GPA, asking if there was a projection on whether all the money would be spent.

Ms. Mullen responded that waiting until FY 2005-2006 to implement the increased eligibility requirements would assure a smooth transition given that institutions have already started to recruit and package students for the fall. The recommended allocation process includes a five-year phase-in of 20 percent of the money each year to allow current recipients to complete their program under the existing merit policy. That phase-in avoids a sudden reallocation of dollars to all the schools in a given year.

The proposed change to the merit aid policy also includes a revised allocation methodology. The formula proposed for four-year institutions would be based on an institution's proportionate share of resident undergraduate full-time equivalents. The two-year schools and the area vocational schools would maintain their 2004 allocation allowing them flexibility to serve a more non-traditional student population. To mitigate some of the fluctuations that occur in a formula/allocation change, staff recommended that no institution would receive more than a ten percent loss in funding in one year.

Graduate student funding would be included only if the state appropriation is funded at the

2003 level. If the appropriation remains at the reduced level, graduate students would not participate in merit scholarships. Effective immediately, all students receiving merit aid must be Colorado residents.

Ryan McMaken, CCHE Advisor, commented there is ample evidence showing that when top students are recruited to a school, the other students are going to be brought up academically as well. It is optimal to have bright students in each class because they set the example for the rest of the students.

Wayne Artis, CCHE Advisor, asked how the change in the policy would affect the distribution of merit-based aid among the various sectors of higher education. Would there be any significant change?

Ms. Mullen stated that for a few institutions there may be some change but any reductions in aid will be capped at a 10 percent annually for the five-year phase-in period. Those institutions that are graduate heavy, assuming that we get no new funds for merit would be at a disadvantage. At the same time, schools that are primarily undergraduate and have traditionally been under-funded in merit (typically small, rural institutions) would benefit. There would not be a significant shift in dollars in any given year.

Jack Burns, Vice President for Academic Affairs & Research, University of Colorado System, asked for a point of clarification. He thought there was a possible inconsistency that may be unfair to transfer students. A recent high school graduate entering as a freshman must be admitted with a HS GPA of 3.75 to be eligible for a Centennial Scholar award and then must maintain a college GPA of 3.5 for renewal according to the policy recommendation. On the other hand, if transfer students must come into the college they are transferring into with a college GPA of 3.75 for eligibility for a merit award, it seems inconsistent with the general policy of having continuing Centennial Scholars meet a 3.5 GPA.

Ms. Mullen stated that the recommended policy is not targeting transfer students. The semester any student is initially awarded, they must have a 3.75 GPA.

Dr. Burns asked the Commission to clarify the transfer student language to make sure it is uniform across the board and that if someone coming in from one college to another maintains a 3.5 GPA, they would be entitled at both institutions.

Ms. Lindner commented that we could clarify it now but there is a full year prior to implementation and this is one of probably several areas to be worked out. Staff must present policy changes to the Commission prior to implementation of any policy change. Most of these administrative questions can be detailed in policy or guideline development. The financial aid advisory committee, composed of financial aid directors from every system, has been working with the Commission on development of the new policy and will be involved as implementation is planned. This is another piece that the Commission will want to discuss. The intent is that any student with a first time award enters with a 3.75 GPA and then maintains a 3.5 GPA to renew the award. There may be some flexibility if they already have an award.

Mr. McRyan agreed that we would like to see better clarification on that.

Executive Director Foster indicated that staff would bring the CCHE policy changes to the next Commission meeting.

Jay Helman, President of Western State College, commented that he agreed with the policy direction of merit dollars going to the most meritorious students. He expressed concern on the impact it would have on the smaller colleges but was happy to see that the formula would use FTE as opposed to other methods previously discussed.

<u>Action</u>: Commissioner Stewart moved approval of the staff recommended merit aid changes to increase the eligibility requirements and change the allocation methodology. Commissioner Altenberg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## VII. 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-ofstate instructional program to be delivered by the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

- "Stepping Up to the Challenge of Intermittent Claudication," described herein as an out-of-state instructional program to be presented in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Anaheim, CA, and Rosemont, IL on April 3, May 14, and June 18, 2004.
- "Choosing the Right Analgesic for Your Patients," described herein as an out-of-state instructional program presented in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Anaheim, CA, and Rosemont, IL on April 2, May 14, and June 16–19, 2004.

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 at Colorado Springs.

- "SPED 491/591 Rewards Training of Trainers for Building Local Capacity Workshop," described herein as a one-year out-of-state instructional program to be offered in Portland, Oregon from June 14–15, 2004, Orlando, Florida from June 17–18, 2004, and San Diego, California from June 21–22, 2004.
- "CURR 4051/5051 LETRS: Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling The Speech Sounds of English: Phonemes and How to Teach Them," described herein as a one-year out-of-state instructional program to be offered from the Spring 2004 semester through the Spring 2005 semester in California, Oregon and other requested locations.
- "CURR 4052/5052 LETRS: Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling Teaching Phonics, Word Study, and the Alphabetic Principle," described herein as a one-year out-of-state instructional program to be offered from the Spring 2004 semester through the Spring 2005 semester in California, Oregon and other requested locations.
- "CURR 4053/5053 LETRS: Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling The Mighty Word: Building Vocabulary and Oral Language," described herein as a one-year out-of-state instructional program to be offered from the Spring 2004 semester through the Spring 2005 semester in California, Oregon and other requested locations.
- "CURR 4054/5054 LETRS: Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling Getting Up to Speed: Developing Fluency," described herein as a one-year out-of-state instructional program to be offered from the Spring 2004 semester through the Spring 2005 semester in California, Oregon and other requested locations.
- "CURR 4055/5055 LETRS: Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and

**Spelling Digging for Meaning: Teaching Text Comprehension,**" described herein as a one-year out-of-state instructional program to be offered from the Spring 2004 semester through the Spring 2005 semester in California, Oregon and other requested locations.

- "CURR 4057/5057 Step Up to Writing: Basic, Practical and Helpful Writing Instruction, Day One thru Day Four," described herein as a one-year out-of-state instructional program to be offered throughout the United States, with primary focus in Colorado, Washington, California, Wyoming, New York, Virginia, and Utah. Heaviest months are August, October, January, March, and May. Pending approval, this program is slated to being June 14, 2004.
- "CURR 4058/5058 Step Up to Writing: Basic, Practical and Helpful Writing Instruction, Day One and Day Two," described herein as a one-year out-of-state instructional program to be offered throughout the United States, with primary focus in Colorado, Washington, California, Wyoming, New York, Virginia, and Utah. Heaviest months are August, October, January, March, and May. Pending approval, this program is slated to being June 14, 2004.
- "CURR 4059/5059 Step Up to Writing: Basic, Practical and Helpful Writing Instruction, Day Three and Day Four," described herein as a one-year out-of-state instructional program to be offered throughout the United States, with primary focus in Colorado, Washington, California, Wyoming, New York, Virginia, and Utah. Heaviest months are August, October, January, March, and May. Pending approval, this program is slated to being June 14, 2004.

#### B. FTE – Service Area Exemptions

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

## C. Financial Statement Review

Mr. Richard Schweigert presented an update on the Commission's continuing efforts to review financial statements for the various institutions. Mr. Schweigert introduced Mr. Steve Golding, Vice President for Budget and Finance for the CU System, who presented an outline of CU's most current financial report of their four institutions.

No action was required, nor taken.

#### D. 2004 No Child Left Behind Grants

The Commission accepted the report on grants awarded by CCHE through Title II (Part A) of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, Improving Teacher Quality, which is a federal program focusing on preparing, training, and recruiting high-quality teachers.

<u>Action</u>: Commissioner Altenberg moved adjournment of the meeting. Commissioner Garcia seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.