

# MINUTES OF THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**April 7, 2005**  
**Community College of Aurora**

Chairperson Judy Weaver called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Commission members attending were Judy Altenberg, Ray Baker, Mike Feeley, and Dean Quamme. Commissioner Pres Montoya participated by phone and Commissioners Richard Garcia, Terry Farina, James Stewart and Greg Stevinson were excused. Commission Staff members attending were Rich Schweigert, Jenna Langer, Matt Gianneschi, Joan Johnson, Gail Hoffman and Mary Lou Lawrence.

Advisory Committee members Chris Purkiss and Andra Zepplin attended.

Chairperson Weaver introduced Dr. Linda Bowman, President of Community College of Aurora, and host of the meeting, who made welcoming remarks.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Baker moved to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2005, meeting and Commissioner Feeley seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Commissioner Feeley moved to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2005, meeting and Commissioner Altenberg seconded the motion. There was no discussion and they were unanimously approved.

## **REPORTS**

Chairman's Report: Chairperson Weaver recounted her attendance and experience at the Governor's Opportunity Scholarship reception. The moving stories told by various recipients reiterated the importance of the scholarships to expanding opportunity in an individual's life. Commissioner Baker and former Executive Director Tim Foster were instrumental in beginning the program in 1999. Commissioner Baker said it is money well spent and has been a wonderful experience. Ms. Weaver noted that, due to scheduling conflicts, the Colorado Christian University litigation would be discussed at the next meeting.

Commissioners' Report: There were none.

Advisory Committee Report: Advisory Committee member Purkiss reported the Faculty Advisory Committee would be meeting on April 22, 2005, on the Metropolitan State

## **MINUTES OF THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

College Campus. Executive Director Rick O'Donnell is attending and the Commissioners are invited to attend.

Andra Zepplin, representing the students on the Advisory Committee, thanked Director O'Donnell for helping the student body leaders to organize. They are planning a retreat and will inform the Commission when it is planned.

Public Comment: There was none.

### **PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION**

Math Achievement in Colorado – K-12: Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Commissioner William Moloney and the Colorado Board of Education value their partnership with the Commission on Higher Education and he values his relationship with Rick O'Donnell, one of the fundamental pillars in the campaign for education reform in Colorado. The K-12 community has much to do to make a high school diploma mean something while striving to balance excellence with equity. CDE is working to achieve the Colorado Commission on Higher Education's (CCHE) guidelines.

Assistant Commissioner Jo O'Brien, with the use of graphics, relayed the importance and status of math education in Colorado and the modifications required to successfully and satisfactorily provide math education to students. Testing has shown that students who take numerous math classes are the students that attain math proficiency. On 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math tests, Colorado students have scored at 17% and 34% respectively, placing Colorado in the top 10 states nationwide for math proficiency. Some school districts have not begun to prepare curriculum to meet the 2008 required courses for college entrance. CDE is working on resolving these issues.

Commissioner Weaver noted that CCHE performance contracts with the institutions address training of teacher education candidates. Staff member Matt Gianneschi and Ms. O'Brien are conferring with deans and directors of Departments of Education on math education methodology and pedagogy.

Commissioner Weaver introduced the "Colorado Declaration on Math Performance" (Declaration) and requested its approval. Commissioner Baker moved to adopt the Declaration as written and requested comparable support for the Declaration from the Colorado Board of Education which Mr. Gianneschi will obtain. Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion and Declaration was unanimously adopted.

There was no public discussion.

Update on COF Stipend Application Process: Staff member Rich Schweigert reported that 116,000 students have registered. In response to a question from Commissioner Weaver, Mr. Schweigert reported testing of the system was on schedule and, as of April

## **MINUTES OF THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

1, 2005, 75% of the schools were operational. He advised Senate Bill 132 contains a section that would alter the status of some students that otherwise would have been ineligible for a stipend.

There was no public discussion.

CCHE Task Force on Alternatives to Funding Capital Development and Controlled Maintenance – Progress Report: Staff member Joan Johnson reported that the Task Force had one meeting remaining and would subsequently issue a report. Members have investigated Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) for capital funding. A private-sector company would fund construction costs and provide the state agency or institution an option to lease the structure. REITs may be more expensive in the duration and create tax problems. Staff members Johnson and Schweigert reported that Representative MacFayden would introduce legislation providing state agencies and institutions the option to use REITs for capital construction, an additional funding mechanism to the existing options of tax-exempt bonds and lease-purchase statutes. A bill is pending in the Colorado General Assembly to use a REIT to construct the Forensic Unit. SB05-252 and enterprise status for the institutions would allow schools to bond against 10% of tuition revenue.

Commissioner Baker stated Archstone Properties, one of the largest REITs, advised the task force on the capital market where money is available; determining a structure was the remaining issue. Institutions are cash-funding capital projects and maintenance, which is their only option, as the possibility of obtaining substantial money from the state is negligible without a remedy to the state budget.

Commissioners Feeley and Altenberg said there was no option for the governmental unit to buy a REIT-built facility in response to Commissioner Weaver's question.

There was no public discussion.

Colorado Commission on Higher Education Capital Construction Program Annual Report – 2004: Staff member Johnson reported that seven of the 13 CCHE-approved capital projects sent to the Capital Development Committee were forwarded to the Joint Budget Committee and sent to the Committee of the Whole. Other approved projects were for capital maintenance. An additional \$500 million plus in capital funds for new facilities and maintenance to existing facilities is needed to meet the demand of increased enrollment at institutions. The capital construction annual report will be forwarded to the Capital Development Committee and the Joint Budget Committee.

University of Colorado President Betsy Hoffman reported that the Colorado Court of Appeals had just issued a ruling that the state can use certificates of participation to fund new buildings. The ruling was made in a lawsuit brought by the Coloradoans for Correctional Reform against the use of state-backed certificates of participation to

## **MINUTES OF THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

finance buildings at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center Fitzsimons campus and for the Department of Corrections. The group alleged that certificates of deposit violated the TABOR state constitutional amendment.

GT Pathways Update: Staff member Gianneschi reported that 362 courses had been submitted for review on April 22, 2005. Three hundred courses have already been reviewed and the process is ahead of schedule. At the next meeting, there may be recommendations to make minor, institution-specific curriculum modifications. At this time, there are no foreign languages approved for statewide transfer because there is debate regarding in which discipline to categorize them.

There was no public discussion.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Colorado State University (CSU) Facilities Master Plan: Staff member Gail Hoffman stated the 5-6 year plan was very basic with the exception of the Foothills Research Campus plan, which consolidates facilities for security purposes. The master plan encompasses all six campuses and the outlying installations, explaining the lack of specificity in the plan. A parking facility is proposed and CCHE has approved a living/learning center. The plan includes \$40 million in new unfunded plans, including \$32 million for the veterinarian diagnostic center. Staff recommends approval of the master plan.

Commissioner Altenberg moved for approval of the Action Item and Commissioner Quamme seconded the motion.

Colorado State University President (CSU), Larry Penley stated the master plan presented was consistent with past master plans including the modifications to the Foothills campus. Priorities remain the same including the University Center for the Arts, the Veterinarian Diagnostic Laboratory to assist in bioterrorism research, and the San Luis Valley Center for potato research. CSU provides research for the international space station and, as a land grant school, has research facilities in many areas of Colorado.

Commissioner Baker wanted clarification on the joint venture parking garage with Ft. Collins to provide additional parking. Dr. Penley noted students want convenient parking that protects green spaces and they are looking at an outside provider. No decision has been made.

There was no public discussion.

The motion was unanimously approved.

### **CONSENT ITEMS:**

## **MINUTES OF THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

Performance Contract for University of Colorado System: Staff Member Jenna Langer thanked Commissioners Baker and Stevinson and University of Colorado System President Hoffman, Vice President Jack Burns and their team for their work on the Performance Contract for the University of Colorado System. Even though some statutory requirements have been waived in the contracts to meet the needs of each institution, the revised CCHE polices are applicable to the schools.

Teacher Education Reauthorization: Mesa State College: There was no presentation.

Additional Corrections Regarding Approved Advanced Teacher Preparation Programs at the University of Colorado at Boulder: There was no presentation.

Correction Regarding Approved Advanced Teacher Preparation Programs at the University of Colorado Boulder: There was no presentation.

Commissioner Baker moved to approve all Consent Items as presented and Commissioner Altenberg seconded the motion.

There was no public discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **WRITTEN REPORTS - NO DISCUSSION**

Report on Out of State Instruction; FTE – Service Area Exemptions: There were no questions or discussion on any report.

### **ADJOURNMENT**