Vice-Chairperson Terry Farina called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Commission members attending were Terry Farina, Vice-Chairperson; Judy Altenberg; James Stewart; Richard Garcia; and Pres Montoya. Commissioners Mike Feeley and Greg Stevinson attended by phone and Chairperson Judy Weaver and Commissioners Baker and Quamme were excused. Commission Staff members attending were Executive Director Rick O'Donnell, Rich Schweigert, Jenna Langer, Matt Gianneschi, and Mary Lou Lawrence.

Advisory Committee member Chris Purkiss attended.

Vice Chairperson Farina introduced Dr. Larry Penley, President of Colorado State University (CSU) and host of the meeting, who made welcoming remarks.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2005, meeting and Commissioner Altenberg seconded the motion. They were unanimously approved.

REPORTS

<u>Chairman's Report:</u> There was none.

Commissioners' Report: Commissioner Feeley reported on the progress of the Colorado State University (CSU) Alcohol Task force. He commended members of the committee, including Chairperson Lt. Governor Jane Norton, Chief Harrison of the Ft. Collins Police Department, Chief Yarbourgh of the CSU police, and Linda Cook and Cheryl Olsen for their extraordinary work on a project that will change the national culture of alcohol use. He also commended Dr. Penley and thanked for creating the task force. Copies of the final report were distributed. Commissioner Feeley excused himself from the rest of the meeting.

Commissioner Montoya inquired about implementation of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) Performance Contract at individual campuses. Executive Director O'Donnell stated the CCCS Board was working with each college to implement the goals and targets of the contract.

Commissioner Stewart, in accordance with the last paragraph of the Declaration on Higher Education, thought all partners in education should be signators to the Declaration. Commissioner Farina suggested discussing procuring partner signatures at the Commission retreat as there would be extensive numbers of partners. Executive Director O'Donnell will obtain the signature of the Colorado Board of Education at their next meeting.

Advisory Committee Report: There were none.

<u>Public Comment:</u> Katie Clausen, President, and Maria Bennett, Legislative Liaison, of the Associated Students of Colorado State University presented "Fund Our Future", an initiative by campus student leaders from Colorado institutions of higher education to educate and lobby the Colorado Legislature to increase funding for higher education. Commissioner Altenberg thanked the students and commended them for expressing the concerns of those most impacted by budget cuts and constraints.

PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSION

<u>Update on COF Stipend Applications Process</u>: Staff member Rich Schweigert cited Jeanne Adkins', Colorado Access Network (CAN) memo and reported 72,000 students have applied for stipends. Complete tests of the system, including the portion to determine payment per student, have been successfully conducted at five pilot schools with only minor glitches and testing of all schools should be completed by the end of March, allowing time to correct problems before the July 1, 2005 start date. Commissioner Farina asked about the time frames in order to meet the July 1st deadline and Mr. Schweigert said the goal is to have everybody "live" tested by April 1st, allowing a time to correct problems before July 1, 2005.

Commissioner Montoya asked if any of the currently applied 72,000 students were continuing students and if, eventually, students could be identified by campus. Mr. Schweigert said tests were being done attempting to identify current students and their campus affiliation.

Potential Solutions to State Fiscal Problems and Public Opinion Regarding Higher Education: Mr. Schweigert referred to documents that presented the Governor's and the House Democrats' proposals to fix budget problems, noting the similarities and differences between them. Optimistically, he thinks there will be a compromise to present to the voters in November. Absent a compromise, the Joint Budget Committee will deal with a budget with millions of dollars deficit. Both the Governor and the Legislature have been discussing higher education and, if there is a budget solution, higher education will benefit.

Director O'Donnell reported the differences of opinion between the Governor's and the Democrats' plans concern how large a revenue increase for state government would voters approve and the time frames within which to conduct a sunset review of the enabling legislation. The Democratic leadership thinks the voters would permit state government to keep more money than Governor thinks would be approved. The Governor proposes a five (5) year sunset review, the Democrats twelve (12) years. Mr. O'Donnell also thinks a compromise will be reached.

In the a poll of voter perception of higher education, Mr. O'Donnell reported that 65% of those polled had a negative first impression of higher education, citing high tuition,

sports, scandals, etc. as their reasons. Forty-five percent of those surveyed felt higher education was inadequately funded and 52% thought funding for higher education should be increased. Two-thirds feel students and their parents pay for education and do not want tuition to increase more than the rate of inflation. The poll showed the majority support public higher education, want more money for financial aid, do not want higher tuition and do not want funding cut. However, increased funding for higher education is secondary to issues such as transportation and K-12 and would not be a major factor to voters considering modifications to TABOR. It would require a great deal of hard work by the education community to persuade voters to add more money to higher education.

ACTION ITEMS

Student Budget Parameters for 2005-2006: Staff member Rich Schweigert stated the Federal Government requires the Commission to set guidelines for use by campus financial aid advisors to determine the cost of student attendance and to calculate the expected family contribution to justify federal aid that is provided. As the Commissioners requested, the CPI was not used as a base for the current calculation. A variety of resources were used to calculate the base for a realistic inflation and cost index. An institution may adjust the calculation appropriate to their demographic area and may challenge the base amounts. Each school uses a formula to determine family contribution for its students and, this year, the federal government's minimum family requirement is \$200.00. Mr. Schweigert recommended the Commission adopt the base guideline with flexibility.

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

Judy Altenberg requested and received clarification that there was pending legislation to remove the requirement that a student carry medical insurance while enrolled in school.

Commissioner Montoya asked if an institution could make modifications to the base guidelines. Mr. Schweigert stated that financial advisors are well acquainted with the demographics of their community and make modifications as required by local situations.

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

Resolution Concerning Task Force on Alternatives to Funding Capital Construction and Controlled Maintenance: Mr. Schweigert said the Resolution was being sought to formulize a group that has and will be meeting to recommend to the Commission alternatives methods to construct and maintain facilities on institution campuses. Membership includes representatives from bonding agencies, schools and bond law firms. Commissioners Feeley and Altenberg were replacing Commissioners Vollbracht and Quamme on the task force. Representative McFayden and Senator McElhany are also on the Task Force.

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the Action Item and Commissioner Altenberg seconded the Motion.

Commissioner Farina noted maintenance of all state owned facilities, including roads, is critical as all are publicly owned.

Commissioner Stewart asked if the Task Force would issue a report and Mr. Schweigert stated a report should be presented at the April Commission meeting.

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

Revision to Statewide Transfer Policy: Staff member Matt Gianneschi explained during the last legislative session, there was a revision to C.R.S. 20-6-802 requiring acceptable credits from vocational schools be fully transferable to two- and four-year institutions as well as other vocational schools. He asked the Commission to approve the revised policy to conform to the revised statute.

Commissioner Altenberg moved to approve the Action item and Commissioner Montoya seconded the motion.

Commissioner Montoya asked if this element was missed in original policy. Mr. Gianneschi said the policy conformed to the statute when implemented, but the statutory changes required changes to the policy.

Commissioner Stevinson asked what qualified a course as completely transferable and if the catalogues for these schools would denote these classes as transferable. Mr. Gianneschi said a course in deemed transferable either by its approval by GT Pathways or by acceptance from the institution to which transferred, and he will work with these schools to mark these classes as transferable in their catalogs.

Kevin Oltjenbruns, CSU, stated several institutions had agreed among themselves to accept courses for transfer that may not have state transferability and have not been approved by GT Pathways. Mr. Gianneschi stated those courses not approved transferable by GT Pathways but that were transferable pursuant to inter-institution agreements would be designated in transfer guides.

In response to Commissioner Farina, Mr. Gianneschi said adopting staff recommendation as presented incorporated the concerns discussed regarding transferability.

The motion was unanimously approved.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Performance Contracts: Adams State College, Colorado Community College System, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State College, University of Northern Colorado and Western State College: Director O'Donnell stated the contract for Western State was being distributed at the meeting and reported the contract for Metropolitan State College had been signed by the institution and, upon the Commission's approval, it became effective. Staff Member Jenna Langer stated a revised Consent Item was had also been distributed. She recommended the other contracts receive conditional approval pending acceptance by the respective Governing Boards. Should the Governing Boards make non-substantive modifications to the contracts, those changes, if any, would be presented at a later Commission meeting.

Executive Director O'Donnell thanked Ms. Langer, the staff and the institutions for their hard work negotiating the contracts. Negotiations over minor issues continued on the contracts not presented for conditional approval, University of Colorado System, Ft. Lewis College and Mesa State College.

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve both Consent Items as presented and as revised and Commissioner Montoya seconded the motion.

Commissioner Stevinson noted that Colorado has great institutions of higher educations and commended the parties negotiating on their behalf, CCHE staff and Craig Umbaugh for their extraordinary work negotiating agreements beneficial to the students and the taxpayers of Colorado.

Commissioner Farina added his commendation to the negotiation teams and stated Commissioner Stewart's comments regarding the educational partnerships was critical to the implementation of the contracts that were based on good faith with minimal specifics. He also said Colorado could be a model for all.

The Motion was unanimously approved.

<u>Correction Regarding Approved Advanced Teacher Preparation Programs at the</u> University of Colorado Boulder:

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

WRITTEN REPORTS - NO DISCUSSION

Report on Out State Instruction; FTE-Service Area Exemptions; and Capital Assets

Quarterly Report for Fourth Quarter 2004 on Program Plan Waivers, Cash-Funded and

SB92-202 Projects and other matters: There were no questions or discussion on any
report.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Montoya moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion that was unanimously approved. The next Commission meeting will occur on March 3, 2005, and Front Range Community College.