

**MINUTES OF THE  
COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
June 2, 2005  
Front Range Community College**

Chairperson Judy Weaver called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Commissioner Stewart moved to convene in Executive Session and Commissioner Quamme seconded the motion. The Commissioners convened in executive session.

Chairperson Weaver reconvened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and introduced Dr. Janet Gullickson, President of Front Range Community College and host of the meeting and newly appointed Commissioner Joel Farkas.

Commission members attending were Judy Altenberg, Joel Farkas, Terry Farina, Richard Garcia, Dean Quamme, Greg Stevinson, James Stewart and Judy Weaver. Commissioners Baker and Feeley were excused. Commission Staff members attending were Rich Schweigert, Jenna Langer, Matt Gianneschi, Joan Johnson, Vickie Leal and Mary Lou Lawrence.

Advisory Committee members attending were Representative Keith King and Senator Suzanne Williams representing Senator Sue Windels

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2005, meeting and Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

### **REPORTS**

Chairman's Report: There was none.

Commissioners' Report: Commissioner Garcia thanked all the schools that sent representatives to the Statewide Parent Coalition meeting to recruit Hispanics enrollees, which contributed to the success of the meeting.

Advisory Committee Report: There was none.

Public Comment: There was none.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Approval of Fee for Service Contracts: Mr. O'Donnell stated statute did not require Commission approval of Fee for Service contracts, negotiations were not completed and no contract would be presented for review. Mr. Schwiegert explained the contracts

consist of a base contract applicable to all schools that conforms to state contract procedures and institution specific Exhibits A through C addressing graduate programs, specialized economic development, rural education and other issues. Once signed, each contract must be reviewed by the State Controller. He anticipates all contracts will be signed by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Quamme asked if there were ramifications if contracts were not completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Schweigert said no payments would be made if contracts were not completed. Commissioner Farina asked what the total dollar value of the contracts was and Mr. Schweigert said it was \$200.9 million.

Approval of Ft. Lewis College and Mesa State College Performance Contracts: There was no discussion.

Program Modification to the Existing Postbaccalureate Initial Licensure Program at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center: There was no discussion.

New Mexico/Colorado Reciprocity Agreement: There was no discussion.

Program Modification to the Technology Education Teaching Endorsement Program at Colorado State University: There was no discussion.

Program Modifications to the Postbaccalaureate Licensure Programs at the University of Colorado at Denver: There was no discussion.

Revisions to the Optometry Student Exchange Program – WICHE Policy: There was no discussion.

CAPT Center Dissolution: There was no discussion.

Commissioner Farina moved to approve Consent Items B through I as presented and Commissioner Stewart seconded the Motion. The Motion was unanimously approved.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Compliance with Recommendations in the Exemptions to the 120 Credit Hour Statutory Requirement for the Baccalaureate Programs Agenda Item: Dr. Gianneschi stated he, the President and Provost of Colorado School of Mines (CSM) had been working to bring Mines in compliance with the Commission's April, 2004, Agenda Item requiring it to reduce all academic programs by six credit hours. Program requirements and national accreditations made reduction difficult for some courses. Some programs have been reduced 4 credit hours and Mines plans to have all programs at 140 credit hours or less by Fall, 2006. CCHE recommends, that in lieu of reducing all programs by six credit hours, the Commissioners approve reduction of some courses by 4 credit hours, CSM monitor programs and graduation credit hour rates and reduce all programs to less than 140 hours by Fall, 2006.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if program credit hours were higher at other schools. Dr. Gianneschi said a review of all state engineering programs revealed that, although total program credit hours at other schools may be less than CSM, actual graduation credit hours may be 160 to 170, causing concern. Students may need additional general education courses to obtain the program prerequisite classes, thereby increasing the total graduation credit hour number. Commissioner Weaver asked if institutions with programs having 160-170 graduation credit hours had considered a graduate degree. Dr. Gianneschi said no.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the action item as presented and Commissioners Quamme and Weaver seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Rewrite of Commission Financial Policies: Mr. Schweigert and Ms. Lindner stated the College Opportunity Fund (COF) necessitated review and/or revision and promulgation of new financial aid policies. Parts A and B, Introduction and Fiscal Responsibilities and Budget Instructions, have been revised. Part C is new and addresses Mandated Cost Model procedures for institutional funding of tuition and fees and comport with Performance and Fee for Service contracts. Also addressed are COF reporting of eligible students and credit hours, allocation of stipend payments based on credit hours taken, and procedures for requesting stipend appropriations. Governing Boards are responsible for Part C compliance and procedural guidelines are being prepared. Tuition increase requests, should appropriations be less than anticipated, and student waiver criteria and procedures are included. Obsolete guidelines for provision of goods and services and housing allowances have been eliminated. Criteria and procedures for stipend payments to private institutions and policies for institutional scholarships and student and course eligibility are included. If signed, SB05-132, would require modification of course eligibility policies to include basic skills courses. Section 4.05 provides the procedure to request cash funded advances, without interest, to satisfy cash flow needs and reporting criteria for private institutions. Policies for payment rectifying discrepancies between the student share and the stipend are included and payment may not be requested until reconciliation is completed and total student enrollment in COF. Currently, there is a discrepancy in student enrollment numbers between intuitions and CAN databases which should be rectified once classes begin.

Senator Williams asked for examples of a student request of a waiver from CCHE. Ms. Linder said possible waiver requests could occur if a school exhausted its 5% waiver allotment or for physical, family and/or financial hardships. CCHE does not anticipate waiver requests in the first year of COF. Commissioner Quamme asked if these were all the financial policies and was told it was. Commissioner Altenberg clarified that basic skills courses are not currently eligible for COF stipends but could be if SB05-132 is signed. Commissioner Weaver asked how payment of basic skills courses would be made should they become eligible stipend courses. Mr. Schwiegert said money would be

moved from Fee for Service contract payments to the trust fund. Senator King asked how enrollment and stipend eligibility at private institutions would be reported if a student transferred to a public institution. Executive Director O'Donnell and Mr. Schweigert said the CAN database would record and report all classes taken and eligible for the stipend irrespective of school.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Farina moved to approve the action item as presented with the understanding additional revisions were anticipated and Commissioner Altenberg seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Weaver requested an update on the COF process. Mr. Schweigert reported 155,000 students had enrolled in College Access Network (CAN). Institutions regularly compare their databases to CAN's and rectify enrollment discrepancies. In August/ September, schools will submit a bill for enrolled students and a trust fund disbursement will be made. In December, institutional and CAN databases will be reconciled with an anticipated match of 99-100% and payment adjustments made. Summaries of COF's progress will be provided to Commissioners.

Senator King asked if the data indicated demographic trends or enrollment changes. Mr. Schweigert said it was too early to determine that information but there maybe indications at the reconciliation. Senator Williams if high school students were enrolling. Mr. O'Donnell reported there had been an extraordinary outreach to high schools through College in Colorado and other venues to enroll these students. Enrollment in COF has been built into college admissions and acceptance procedures and some districts, including Denver Public Schools, automatically enroll all of their students in COF. Commissioner Weaver noted that college preparatory high school curriculum was an important element to make students aware of COF.

FY 2006 Financial Aid Allocations: Ms.Lindner reported the state funded FY05-06 Financial Aid allocation increased slightly because the Governor provided a one time only increase to need based aid, increasing it 12%. Merit-based aid decreased by 75% and work study and categorical program funding remained the same. The Financial Aid Advisory Panel, using a student driven methodology, studied several options and decided to distribute need base aid by holding harmless schools with funding over their proportion of need and distributing the increase, on a percentage basis, to schools under their need. Need based students are 156% Pell eligible and the proposed distribution will fund the neediest students. Merit aid is allocated proportionally on institution resident student head count and, under current Commission policy, a 3.75 GPA is required to qualify for merit scholarships and a 3.50 GPA must be maintained to continue a scholarship, focusing aid on the most meritorious undergraduate students. The Commission administers categorical programs, Native American Tuition Assistance, Law/Fire/POW, which are directly given to student and have been slightly increased by taking money from other programs. As federal law no longer requires holding loan match funds in reserve and that money will be transferred to the need based category. Money is held in

reserve to match the undetermined health care professional aid. Staff recommends the Commission approve the Financial Aid Allocation model and corresponding allocations presented on Exhibit A.

Representative King asked if the change in merit aid allocations would affect incoming freshmen or would be a reduction to continuing students. Ms. Linder said that was an institutional choice but schools indicated continuing students would be funded first. Institutional money maybe available to fund freshmen.

Director O'Donnell thanked Ms. Linder for her hard work and noted the JBC was asked for a net increase in all aid but chooses not to increase merit aid. The College Opportunity Fund Blue Ribbon Panel studied financial aid but made no recommendation. He suggested an in depth study on the effectiveness and/or revision of financial aid policies, especially in light of the desire to increase access.

Commissioner Altenberg asked if reducing the \$1,500 allocation to \$1,000 was a policy continuation. Ms. Linder said that policy would sunset this year and it allows the funding of more students since all Level 1 students have to be funded before money is given to the other levels. Commissioner Quamme asked if hold harmless clause would sunset. Ms. Linder said it would not.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the action item as presented and Commissioner Stevenson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Identification of Degree Programs with Low Enrollment and Recommendation of Discontinuance to Governing Boards: Mr. Gianneschi reported identification and reporting of these programs was postponed until it was determined the Commission would retain this responsibility pursuant to performance contracts. Staff recommends governing boards be notified of low enrollment and risk of discontinuance for five baccalaureate programs and three Ph.D. programs and recommend discontinuance of the Bachelor of Science in Botany at Colorado State University (CSU).

Colorado State University Vice President for Administrative Affairs, Ed Bowditch, said CSU was aware of low enrollment in the Botany degree program and would be sending the Commission formal notification that the program was being removed as a major and making it a concentration in another program.

There was no public comment.

Commissioner Quamme moved to approve the action item as presented and Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

CCHE Task Force on Alternatives to Funding Capitol Construction and Controlled Maintenance – Report to the Commission: Ms. Johnson thanked the attending legislators

for the capitol construction/controlled maintenance appropriation. Of the \$51.7 million appropriated, \$35.5 million will fund 7 institutional capitol constructions projects and some capitol maintenance projects. The commission is asked to approve the attached Declaration in Support of the Colorado Economic Recovery Act Referenda C and D. An option the Task Force may consider is including capitol construction/maintenance in Fee for Service contracts. The results of the election on Referenda C and D will impact future capitol issues and modifications may be necessary.

Director O'Donnell and Ms. Johnson said use of general funds for capitol construction/maintenance could result in an institution receiving more than 10% of its money from public funds making school susceptible to Tabor restrictions. Financing capitol projects through Fee for Service contracts would ameliorate this issue.

Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the action item as presented and Commissioner Altenberg seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Weaver read the Declaration into the record and asked for a vote of approval, which was unanimously given.

Modifications to the Statewide Transfer Policy for Public Institutions of Higher Education in Partial Fulfillment of Performance Contracts: Mr. Gianneschi said the Academic Council had studied the transfer policy and performance contracts recognize the uniqueness of each school, allowing some flexibility on transferable general education core curriculum. This item permits flexibility in math and arts and science course requirements to meet school capabilities. It is consistent with Community College System (CCS) President's, Nancy McCallin, request that community colleges could require courses that do not fall within the general education transferable core curriculum and allows CCS Associate of Science and Associate of Arts graduates transferring to 4 year institutions exemptions from some required general education courses provided they do not exceed the 40 hours total in the King bill.

Senator Williams observed higher education core courses did not include foreign language, a is a high school core requirement for graduation and progression to higher education. Mr. Gianneschi said, in 2010, institutions will require 2 years of foreign language and schools require it now. If a current requirement, a school will submit the foreign language course to GT Pathways for review and acceptance. Senator Williams asked if foreign language maybe required by community colleges in the future. Mr. Gianneschi said he does not know.

Commissioner Weaver moved to approve the action item as presented and Commissioner Farina seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

State Guaranteed General Education Courses, Cycle III: Mr. Gianneschi and Ms. Leal reviewed the process and recommended approval of GT Pathways recommended classes for inclusion in a schools guaranteed transferable core curriculum in accordance with the attached chart. Each course category was reviewed relative to content criteria adopted by

the Commission and many factors were included in course approval. Governing Boards will be notified of courses rejected and the reason for rejection.

Commissioner Weaver asked if there were commonalities to courses not recommended. Ms. Leal said there were several reasons for rejection. Reviewer provided explicit reasons for rejection and those comments are being tallied to gain a comprehensive understanding of rejections. There is an indication a closer review content area of arts and humanities is needed.

UCS Chancellor Burns stated they were pleased with the process and UCS submitted over 100 classes. Some classes may not have been approved because they did not fit with matrix of competencies created from the King bill and/or rivalries between departments and suggested a review of these competencies. Some revisions to the process maybe necessary.

Commissioner Stevinson stated guaranteed transfer was a fundamental element of performance contracts, commended the reviewers and asked how many courses remained to be reviewed and if there was sufficient staff to perform review. Mr. Gianneschi said all courses must be submitted by a fixed date per individual contract and each institution decided when a course would be submitted. Some schools are changing their core curriculum resulting in fewer courses being submitted. There is sufficient staff to do the review. Commissioner Stevinson suggested modifying the motion to include that schools will report on actions being taken relative to a rejected course as a basic contract premise was to have courses transferable between schools and campuses.

Director O'Donnell hopes the process encourages discussion as the ultimate determination of class effectiveness is what skills/abilities the consumer of a student's services expect the student to bring to the community. This process provides a positive end result, especially for the student, and a more rigorous curriculum.

Commissioners Farkas asked if courses were reviewed individually or in a core group and if courses have to be changed to meet a wider range of courses. Mr. Burns said courses are reviewed individually and King Bill criteria were not applied universally to each course. Adjusting course competencies to adhere to the King Bill requirements could be resolved through the Academic Counsel and GT Pathways. Mr. Gianneschi said reviewers were not affected by the school, course title or teaching faculty in their review and courses bearing the same title but with different substantive matter were rejected because they did not meet the requirements.

Director O'Donnell noted the Academic Council should consider if general education proficiencies, such as writing, were satisfied. It is of concern that students would take courses that did not provide basic skills and proficiencies.

Commissioner Garcia asked if non-approved courses could be re-submitted. Mr. Giannaschi said the Academic Council was preparing a protocol for re-submission that

would ensure a substantive change that addressed the causes for rejection. Commissioner Stevinson noted performance contracts provided for re-submission.

Public Comment: George Walker noted Professor Rod Muth, Faculty Chair UCS, said there was a disagreement as to who determines core curriculum. He expressed concern that that students of color are advised to enter Community Colleges implying they are not qualified to attend flagship schools. Courses supporting minority issues are not boutique courses but do provide support to minority students He understands society expects professional degrees while ignoring the emotional support supplied by these courses. He concerned there is insufficient faculty to teach nursing and students are being turned away. Mr. Gianneschi noted boutique courses, as all courses, were reviewed for course content and not by title.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to modify the motion to include a recommendation that Governing Boards advise the Commission, in writing, of actions taken on rejected courses in a time frame to be determined by staff.

Commissioner Judy Weaver moved to approve the action item as modified and Commissioner Stewart seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Credit Hours Available Under the College Opportunity Fund for Continuing Students: Ms. Langer said, in accordance with recent legislation, this item modifies the Commission policy, adopted in January, 2005, regarding credit hours available to continuing students under the College Opportunity Fund to include students enrolled at private colleges as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. In answer to Commissioner Weaver, Ms. Langer said that was the only modification.

Commissioner Altenberg moved to approve the action item as presented and Commissioner Stevinson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Director O'Donnell said the Resolution Referenda C and D stated the election on November 8, 2005, and it should be November 1, 2005, in accordance with state law regarding election scheduling. Commissioner Weaver moved to change the Resolution to reflect the correct date and Commissioner Altenberg seconded the Motion. The motions was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Weaver presented former Commissioner Pres Montoya with a gift in appreciation for his service on the Commission and thanked him for his hard work as a Commissioner.

## **WRITTEN REPORTS – NO DISCUSSION**

Report on Out of State / Out of Country Instruction: There was no discussion.

Capitol Assets Report for First Quarter 2005: There was no discussion.

No action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned.