

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
May 4, 2006**

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

Commissioners Terry Farina, Ray Baker, Joel Farkas, Rich Garcia, Dean Quamme, Rick Ramirez, Edward Robinson, Greg Stevinson, James Stewart and Judy Weaver were present. Commissioner Judy Altenberg was excused. Commission Staff members attending were Executive Director Jenna Langer, Matt Gianneschi, Diane Lindner, Matt McKeever, Tobin Bliss, Vicki Leal, Andy Carlson and Heather DeLange.

Dr. John Trefny, President of the Colorado School of Mines, welcomed the Commissioners and expressed his thanks for the continuous support of the School of Mines. Dr. Trefny updated the Commission on programs and initiatives at the School of Mines.

Commissioner Stewart motioned to approve the April 6, 2006, minutes with a second by Commissioner Weaver. The minutes were passed unanimously.

There were no chair or advisory reports.

There was no public comment.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

PRESENTATION BY DAWN TAYLOR OWENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE IN COLORADO: AN UPDATE ON COLLEGE IN COLORADO: College in Colorado is refocusing its efforts and resources toward the grassroots outreach approach. Counselors, teachers, parents and students have provided feedback indicating that this approach is the most effective way to convey the College in Colorado message. The CIC Website is being revamped to improve the ease of navigation. CIC has expanded student outreach efforts to include more of a one-on-one approach. A newly appointed Director of Student Outreach has been meeting with numerous middle and high school principals and counselors to set up assemblies and other group presentations. The reaction to this approach has been positive thus far. Team College in Colorado has been developed to have college athletes travel with the outreach team to various middle and high schools to talk with the students about the obstacles that they have overcome and other problems they have faced, and convey to them the importance of education. "Being that these athletes are shortly removed from high school themselves, they can positively relate to the youth on their level and further relay the message of hope through education." A CIC Daniels Opportunity Book Scholarship has been developed and has received 122 applicants from 32 rural schools. The Daniels Fund has increased its allocation from \$400 to \$800 per year. In March, 60,000 letters went out to parents of 8th graders detailing the new higher education admission requirements. As mandated by House Bill 1027, ACT follow up letters will go out to juniors in high school and their parents to let them know if, based on their ACT score, they will need remediation either

later in high school or when they start their college career. The College in Colorado Scholarship has been a success with nearly 2,000 applicants vying for a \$1,500 per year scholarship. The scholarship is based on students applying and committing to take pre-collegiate coursework throughout high school.

Ms. Weaver asked Ms. Taylor Owens for a copy of the 8th grade letter that was mailed. She also asked if Ms. Taylor Owens will be notifying the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) or the School Districts that the remediation letter is being sent. Ms. Taylor Owens said that they are working with CDE and ACT on the language of the letter and getting the letters out. Ms. Weaver suggested that for the next College Friday, CIC should contact city councils throughout the state and they can develop resolutions for the day. This will help communities tie economic development to education.

Mr. Farina asked what the size of the staff is and what each does for the organization. Ms. Taylor Owens identified a staff of 13 people.

Mr. Garcia asked if the letter that went out to 8th grade students was sent out in Spanish. Ms. Taylor Owens said that it was and is also on the Website in Spanish. Mr. Garcia asked how many College in Colorado scholarships have been given out. The response was that the money is entrusted in College Invest and they are hoping to administer 4,000 scholarships next year. Ms. Langer added that it is now up to a \$75 million endowment in the trust and as the number of potential qualifying students was projected out the \$1,500 amount was calculated. The number can be adjusted in the policy to make sure that no dollars are being unspent on the qualifying students.

PRESENTATION BY DIANE LINDNER AND TOBIN BLISS: 2007-2008 FINANCIAL AID REFORM: Diane Lindner said that her goal is to clarify and point out issues that will need to be addressed before a finalized 2007-2008 reform can be completed. Two financial aid projects are being conducted simultaneously: Providing models and recommendations for the 2006-07 academic year for allocations to institutions and the reform of financial aid for 2007-2008. The 2006-07 allocation recommendations will be brought to the commissioners in June. The budget went well this year and need based aid went up from \$42M to \$44M in 2005-06 and increased to \$52 M in 2006-07. A target of \$62M has been set for 2007-08 for reform implementation.

The following issues will be addressed before 2007-2008 reform is acted on:

- Graduate vs. Undergraduate Students
As money is allocated through the current model, the need of both graduate and undergraduate students is taken into account. Money is allocated to the institutions based on both undergraduate and graduate need but the graduate level student is awarded a lesser percentage than what the current formula supports. To keep graduate students in a state funded financial aid model, some money could be set aside apart from the general pool of funds for undergraduates.

Mr. Baker asked if the timetable is still in place as to when a decision will be made and Ms. Lindner replied that it is. He asked for an overview of the committee structure. Ms. Lindner said the financial aid advisory committee is made up of a representative from each governing board, from the private institutions, and the proprietary institutions. The meetings occur on a monthly basis and work from a specific agenda.

Mr. Farkas asked how many total dollars with reference to the 14% of funding for graduate students. Ms. Lindner said that it was approximately \$3.5M.

Mr. Farina asked what the other states do in respect to the need of graduate students is larger than what is available. Ms. Lindner said she will follow up on what other states do in terms of their graduate students.

- Pell Eligible vs. Level 1 Students

Tobin Bliss discussed the advantages and disadvantages with regard to providing the financial aid voucher to Pell eligible and/or Level 1 students.
- Role of Work Study in the Stipend Plus Aid Model

A model could be constructed that would supplement the appropriation amount for need based aid with the work study amount, due to the criticality of the work study role for underserved and low-income students. There are different ways to augment the voucher with work study.
- Student Reporting Issues

The future voucher amount relies heavily on correct and accurate data. The reliance of this data hasn't been as needed as it is now but with the determination of establishing voucher amounts it is critical to have accurate data reported.
- Administration Issues

Mr. Bliss emphasized that keeping track of students in an administrative fashion needs to be considered when evaluating the financial aid reform issue. There are numerous students (over 70,000) with numerous variables (credit hour changes, late add/drops, and transfers).
- Timing of Awards and Determination of the Stipend Account

Mr. Bliss said the timing of financial aid typically occurs in March while the financial aid voucher awards to students amount is set by the legislature and finalized in June.
- Student Impact

Mr. Bliss said that while it is unclear what the impact on students will be with the implementation of the "Stipend Plus Aid" model, it could serve to draw more low income students into postsecondary education.

- Institutional Flexibility
There are ways to give institutional flexibility and still assure the students the state is making a contribution to their financial aid. The state has some good fiscal options to look at while reforming the financial aid model.

ACTION ITEMS

REVISION TO CCHE POLICIES II-D AND II-E: Ms. Lindner introduced Andy Carlson as CCHE's Financial Audit & Compliance Officer. These are policies that need to be amended for stipend eligibility and for waivers at the institutional level and at the Commission level.

The revised policy addresses PSEO, Fast Track, and Basic Skills eligibility for stipends and waivers. Mr. Carlson said these changes are due to Senate Bill 132 and the policy now specifies that students enrolled in basic skills, PSEO, and Fast Track courses are eligible to receive COF stipends for these courses.

In addition, the policy addresses waivers granted by the Commission. The waiver granted by the Commission shall only be valid for the specific number of credit hours that students need to graduate.

Ms. Lindner said that FAQ's are posted on CCHE's website with questions on existing policy and as more questions on the new policies arise, they will be posted as FAQ's on CCHE's website as well. Meetings are held with CSLP every other week to assure coordination in administering current policies and institutions are apprised of all new policies in draft form and are given opportunities to comment on new policies.

Mr. Farina asked if there were any objections by the institutions. Mr. Carlson said there weren't any objections known.

Mr. Garcia motioned for approval of the action item and Mr. Stevinson seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

REVISIONS TO CCHE POLICY SECTION I: ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, PART I: POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSALS FOR COORDINATED DEGREE PROGRAMS:

Matt Gianneschi provided a historical summary of the Policy and Procedure for the Approval of Proposals for Coordinated Degree Programs that was written in 2000. He pointed out that the policy had a sunset clause, which led to the policy's expiration in May 2005. He noted that, as a result of renewed interest in coordinated degree programs, the policy is being re-introduced to the Commission for approval. The proposed policy ensures compliance with other existing academic affairs policies regarding approval of degree programs and the removal of the sunset clause.

Matt McKeever illustrated the modifications that were made to the policy and pointed out that any approved degree program is subject to the discontinuance of academic degree

policy to ensure specific enrollment levels. He mentioned the chief academic officers at the state institutions are in favor of this policy.

Ms. Weaver asked what the volume of students that are receiving the coordinated degree programs is. Dr. Gianneschi said there are not too many programs at this time but illustrated one that is occurring via Colorado State University intra-system and a few others. Ms. Weaver indicated her support of the coordinated degree programs but would like to see the sunset clause remain in case interest falters in the next five years.

Mr. Quamme motioned for approval of the item and Mr. Robinson seconded the motion.

Alan Lamborn, CSU System, provided testimony to support the approval of the policy and agreed with the notion that all programs will be captured in the reporting of low-enrollment programs.

Michel Dahlin, CU System, concurred with Dr. Lamborn's statement and said CU has had coordinated degree programs for many years. Mr. Farina mentioned the testimonial proof that the policy will be useful.

Mr. Quamme motioned to approve the staff recommendation with an amendment to include a five-year sunset clause. Mr. Baker seconded. All commissioners voted to approve the amending of the staff recommendation to include a five-year sunset provision. Thereafter, all commissioners voted to approve the amended staff recommendation.

FY 2007 COF ELIGIBILITY FOR OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS: Dr. Gianneschi provided a historical synopsis for approving requests from the state's public four-year institutions to offer "off campus state funded" instruction. This year these programs are COF eligible programs. CCHE staff reviewed proposals from ASC, MSCD, and UNC. Based on the FY07 budget estimate, the pool for off-campus COF eligibility is approximately 621 FTE. The recommendation for approval for these proposed programs totals 485 FTE.

Mr. Stewart motioned to approve the agenda item and Mr. Stevinson seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

WRITTEN REPORTS – NO DISCUSSION

REPORT ON OUT-OF-STATE/OUT-OF-COUNTRY INSTRUCTION

WESTERN UNDERGRADUATE EXCHANGE REPORT

REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ON STUDENT ENROLLMENT: Ms. Weaver asked for highlights of this report. Dr. Gianneschi said enrollment declined between 2004 and 2005, though it is too soon to tell if this will be a trend or an anomaly. Four-year campuses had continuous growth but the two-year campuses grew and then declined.

Minority student enrollment is increasing across all sectors with the exception of graduate first professional. Male enrollment is declining and is most profound at the two-year campuses.

There was no discussion and no action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55.