# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION November 2, 2006

Vice-Chair Ray Baker called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Ms. Kay Norton, President of the University of Northern Colorado, welcomed the Commissioners to the UNC campus. She spoke on the university, their view of the issues that face the state of Colorado and public higher education. The University of Northern Colorado focuses on the mission as a public institution. In the last year, economics faculty has been convened to study the economic impact on the university and of the state. There are three phases of the study, two of which have been completed. The third phase will focus on the effects of higher education and what the intangible benefits and effects of public higher education are on society. UNC prepares students for public service oriented professions, such as teaching (<25% of graduates) and nursing. An initiative has started a nursing doctoral program for nursing education. It is UNC's suggestion to base fee-for service funding on state and national priorities and not just on cost of attendance. She said the NCHEMS study is critical to the long term discussion of the funding of higher education. It shows that using an average of benchmarked institutions, Colorado is 100% under funded (\$821M). She suggests that the state should be clear about what are additional dollars vs. what are mandated costs. Ms. Norton said that that UNC, CU (Health Science Center) and CSU are engaged in collaborative efforts to develop a Colorado School of Public Health. Each of these institutions have a niche in the public health arena and are actively involved in a discussion under a MOU and fundraising of which 80% has been achieved to develop a virtual school of public health where students will pay a single tuition.

Executive Director Langer introduced Carrie Besnette and Joel Rosenstein as the newest Commissioners appointed by Governor Owens.

Commissioners Ray Baker, Carrie Besnette, Joel Farkas, Dean Quamme, Rick Ramirez, Ed Robinson, Joel Rosenstein, Greg Stevinson, James Stewart, and Judy Weaver were present. Commissioner Richard Garcia was excused. Colorado Commission on Higher Education staff members present were Jenna Langer, Diane Lindner, Tobin Bliss, Ryan Stubbs, Andy Carlson, Matt McKeever, Vicki Leal and Heather DeLange.

Commissioner Quamme motioned to approve the October 5, 2006 minutes with a second by Commissioner Weaver. The minutes were passed unanimously.

There was no chair report or faculty advisor report.

**COMMISSIONER REPORT:** Commissioner Quamme said the Capital Development Committee has their list prepared and their priorities have been established. The projects that are ongoing have top priority and depending on the level of funding they will move down the project list.

### PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

COLLEGE IN COLORADO: Dawn Taylor Owens, Executive Director of College in Colorado (CIC), gave an update of the initiatives that College in Colorado has undertaken. The organization has met and surpassed all of their goals. The Outreach team has visited over 20 schools reaching over 2,000 students. Over 200 Middle and high schools throughout the state have been visited by CIC staff to deliver the Go-To kits. 67,000 online accounts have been established and web site visits are up by 10,000 site visits from last November. The Daniels Fund Opportunity Book scholarship and the College in Colorado scholarship have both been very successful in their first year. Virtual campus tours visits are up by 22% at nearly 22,000 for the month of September.

CiC's marketing efforts have been successful. Through a partnership with CW2, CiC staff travels to metro area middle schools to give presentations to students emphasizing the importance of a college degree. The presentations occur on Wednesday afternoons and on those evenings a recap of the day's presentation is aired on the CW2 newscast highlighting College in Colorado. Dominique Foxworth has been successful as CiC's spokesperson. His football career and current football statistics have propelled him into the media and his name is becoming more and more recognizable. His most valuable asset to CiC is his advocacy of lifelong education and he often develops new ideas and initiatives during the off-season.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**FINANCIAL AID REFORM/COLORADO'S COLLEGE RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAM:** Ms. Lindner presented the policy said it reflects a year and a half of review and analysis based on the direction of the Commission in the summer of 2005. The direction included providing clarity, transferability, an incentive for graduation and retention, and funding for critical careers.

There are three components to the policy: 1) Undergraduate need based financial aid renamed Colorado's College Responsibility Program. This program allocates to institutions for this program based on the actual cost of attendance of each type of institution and the number of level 1 need based students at that particular institution. A minimum standardized CCRP grant will be awarded to all eligible level 1 students each year. Schools will have the flexibility to package the financial aid more beneficially to The full allocation will still be received by the the students without the state grant. institution based on the number of eligible students but will have the flexibility to package within the policy's limits. 2) Graduate Funding: It became apparent that the Commission wanted to fund graduate need-based students but in a more targeted manner, so the development of the critical careers graduate program which is tied to the federal SMART grant program occurred. The SMART grant focuses on science, technology, engineering, mathematics and health care. 3) Graduation Bonus: Provided to institutions based on the number of Level 1 student that graduate. The Community College system will receive a bonus if the student graduates with a two-year degree or transfers to a fouryear institution.

Implementation of this program will be phased.

Commissioner Weaver commended CCHE staff on the transparency and the transferability of the program that was developed. Ms. Weaver expressed her concern with the graduation bonus when a student transfers to a four-year institution. She asked if there be follow up on the student when a transfer occurs.

Commissioner Baker called for a motion on the approval of the policy as it was presented, Commissioner Quamme motioned and Commissioner Weaver seconded.

Nancy McCallin, President of the Colorado Community College System, provided testimony against the approval of the policy. With an increase of \$5.3 M the community colleges would receive a financial aid increase of only \$300,000 while serving the largest percentage of low-income and minority students in the state. Dr. McCallin said the flexibility that other institutions have restricts the community colleges because they have less institutional or other resources of financial aid with a large population of Level 1 students.

Jenna Langer clarified the allocation methodology would be based on the cost of attendance and then take into perspective the community colleges and calculate the FTE and set the grant amount from that calculation. She said that a grant amount would most likely be set lower than that to allow the institutions with lower cost of attendance to have some flexibility.

Ellie Miller, Director of Financial Aid at Regis University, shared her concerns regarding the approval of the policy. She feels that the change in allocation limits flexibility, timing of the support by the Legislature, creates entitlements, disqualifies needy graduate students by limiting the support to the critical career programs, and implements a major change on the heels of COF implementation.

Carol Hoglund, Chief Business Officer at Aims Community College, presented a letter from Marsi Liddell, President, regarding the negative impact of the program on Aims Community College. The Commission staff clarified that the negative impact was a result of declining level 1 student enrollment at Aims.

Kay Norton, President of the University of Northern Colorado, asked if the Commissioners believe that the proposal has sufficient flexibility in the allocation process with regard to the graduate piece. Is there a specific list of critical careers based on the SMART grant. Ms. Lindner said there is a list but she believes the intention is to look at the critical careers each year at the time the allocation is addressed.

Curt McGill, a student at Regis University, said that it seems agreement needs to be achieved on the facts and what the effects of the proposed policy might be. He questioned the need for the change of policy.

Jake Zambrano, Acting Executive Assistant to the President Mesa State College, said unintended consequences of this policy would deplete the flexibility that Mesa offers as a two and four-year institution to 49% of their students. The graduation bonus infers that institutions are not doing all they can to retain the students, help them succeed and graduate.

Jim Swanson, Director of Financial Aid at Colorado College, said his concerns stem from the fact that this policy is an entitlement program. Colorado College is concerned with the flexibility and does not believe that the flexibility will be as assumed and will therefore hurt students. He believes there are too many unanswered questions and would like to see it tabled until those questions are addressed.

Tom Willoughby, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment at the University of Denver, said he agrees with the Commission on having the dollars net results. DU urges the Commission to reduce the amount of dollars leveraged to assist the neediest students. For financial aid purposes, DU leverages \$8 to every \$1 state dollar.

Lorraine Romero, 4<sup>th</sup> year DU student, said without the assistance of financial aid, she would not be able to attend an institution of higher education. In order to afford education, a student shouldn't have to lessen their goals on which institution they attend. This reform as presented seems to penalize those students attending private institutions.

Commissioner Stevinson asked the CCHE staff to work closely with the Community College System as the process proceeds. They have a unique situation that covers a large student population. The community colleges don't have the flexibility financially that other large institutions have. He also requested to look at the graduation bonus; the intent is good but is it the best way to address it. He would like to see equability the two and four-year institutions equitable.

Commissioner Quamme asked if the issues brought to the attention of CCHE staff will be addressed in the guidelines. Ms. Lindner said that many of the issues will be addressed in the guidelines. She said staff will work with the Community Colleges regarding their unique concerns and issues.

The motion passed unanimously with the previous motion by Commissioner Quamme seconded by Commissioner Weaver.

REVISIONS TO CAPITAL ASSETS POLICIES (SECTION III) AND THE POLICY ON TUITION, FEES, AND STUDENT AID (SECTION IV, PART C): Ms. Lindner said there are two basic changes to the policy. CCHE staff aligned this policy format with other policies in terms of what information is contained within and moved the details into the guidelines. No information is deleted just redistributed. Second, this updates the policies to reflect recent statutory changes. The Subcommittee on Capital Assets' findings from February 2006 are reflected in this policy. The Task Force on Alternatives to Funding Capital Construction and Controlled Maintenance will reconvene to address the issues listed in the agenda item.

Commissioner Baker said that he and Commissioner Quamme have served on the Capital Development subcommittee and a lot of the policy is redundant and has some useless regulations that are not able to be fulfilled.

Commissioner Weaver asked how many of the institutions will be outside of the 10% for enterprise status. Ms. Lindner said most like three or four, primarily the smaller institutions.

Commissioner Farkas motioned to approve with a second by Commissioner Stewart and the motion passed unanimously.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Commissioner Weaver motioned to add the UCDHSC Unfunded Enrollment Request to the Consent Items, Commissioner Stevinson seconded. Mr. Stevinson said it is the request to include the unfunded resident enrollment for the University of Colorado Heath Sciences Center in the calculation for the state appropriated general fund calculations. Commissioner Stewart motioned to approve consent items A-K with the addition of the unfunded enrollment request, Commissioner Weaver seconded and all items passed unanimously.

TECHNICAL MODIFICATIONS TO ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICY I, PART F: ADMISSIONS STANDARDS POLICY:

CASH-FUNDED CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FY 07-08:

STATE GUARANTEED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES, REVIEW CYCLE V, ROUND I:

MODIFICATIONS TO ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICY I-P: TEACHER EDUCATION POLICY: DEFINITION OF THE SELECTION CRITERIA FOR MENTOR TEACHERS:
IDENTIFICATION OF DEGREE PROGRAMS WITH LOW ENROLLMENT AND RECOMMENDATION OF DISCONTINUANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOARD OF REGENTS:

TEACHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION: COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY:

TEACHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION: WESTERN STATE COLLEGE:

TEACHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION: UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER & HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER:

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION POLICY ON SHARING STUDENT DATA:

DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY, GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY, INSTITUTE OF TAOIST EDUCATION AND ACUPUNCTURE, AND FRONT RANGE BIBLE INSTITUTE:

COORDINATED DEGREE PROGRAM APPROVAL – COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER/XI'AN SIYUAN VOCATIONAL UNIVERSITY; AND METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER/COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM:

# **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE IN COLORADO UNDER THE DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT: DENVER SCHOOL OF NURSING

There was no discussion and no action was taken.

Due to the pending gubernatorial administration change, a chair and vice-chair on an interim basis were nominated. Commissioner Baker was elected Interim Chair with Commissioner Quamme as Interim Vice-Chair by a unanimous vote by the rest of the board.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50.