

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
April 6, 2007**

Chairman Ray Baker called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Commissioners Ray Baker, Dean Quamme, Richard Garcia, Jim Polsfut, Rick Ramirez, Ed Robinson, Joel Rosenstein, Greg Stevinson, James Stewart and Judy Weaver were all in attendance.

Commissioner Quamme moved to approve the March 1, 2007 minutes with a second by Commissioner Robinson. Commissioner Weaver commented on the misuse of the title "The Department of Higher Education on the minutes as well as documents throughout the agenda and asked to change the titles to read The Commission on Higher Education. Executive Director Skaggs agreed with Commissioner Weaver to change the titles. Commissioner Quamme moved to approve with the modification, and Commissioner Robinson seconded. The motion passed unanimously with the change.

There were no Chair, Commissioner, or Advisory Committee reports.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT: Executive Director Skaggs invited Andy Carlson, Director of Capital Assets & Compliance for the Department of Higher Education, to give a capital construction update. Mr. Carlson informed the Commissioners of an additional \$20 M for capital construction projects is being considered in discussion between the Governor and legislative leaders. This additional funding would allow for 6 more projects, funding a total of 28 projects at the State level, 17 of which are for higher education.

Mr. Skaggs introduced and welcomed Ms. Suzanne Stark, Executive Assistant, to the Department of Higher Education. Mr. Skaggs reminded the Commissioners about the Higher Education Summit that will take place June 8-9 and confirmed the Commissioner's retreat in August.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Ryan Biehle, University of Colorado student, gave an update to the Commissioners regarding the Associated Students of Colorado group that has been recently formed. This group is comprised of 15 student governments across the state and has been active at the Capitol. The group hosted a lobby day in early March and proposed an increase of financial aid funding totaling \$2.6 M more than the Governor's proposal. Commissioner Baker thanked Mr. Biehle for his update and asked for future updates.

George Walker expressed his view on the lack of funding for higher education and the effect it has on diversity. Mr. Walker commented and was pleased with the press release Colorado State University released regarding funding and said a fighter is needed to get more support for higher education to ensure diversity in funding.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: John Karakoulakis gave an update on various legislative bills that will affect or potentially affect the Colorado Department of Higher Education and the institutions, noting that only a month remains in this year's legislative session. Specifically, Mr. Karakoulakis mentioned HB 1118 and SB97; the latter bill was signed by the Governor on March 22. Cathy Wanstrath commented on how pleased she has been regarding the level of cooperation with all of the institutions this legislative session.

CONSENT ITEMS

DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF THE HUMANITIES, ARGOSY UNIVERSITY, NEW AMERICAN COLLEGE AND WILLIAM H. TAFT UNIVERSITY: Dr. Julie Carnahan presented this item on behalf of Matt McKeever, Director of the Statewide Extended Campus, and asked for approval of both preliminary authorization for the American University of the Humanities and New America College and Category I authorization for Argosy University and William H. Taft University.

Commissioner Weaver commented on the proliferation of online institutions requesting approval to operate in the State of Colorado and asked staff to take a look at Colorado's benchmark criteria for these schools as compared to other states around the country. Ms. Weaver also commented specifically on the number of online nursing degrees competing with the state institution students for clinical site positions.

Dr. Carnahan said that Academic Affairs staff has noticed the proliferation of these types of institutions in the state and has started discussions about doing an analysis of the growth in these programs over the past three years.

Commissioner Stevinson asked Commissioner Weaver if this would be something she would like to explore and spend time at the retreat discussing. Commissioner Weaver said that would be an appropriate time and would like to see staff recommendations regarding the issue prior to the retreat.

Commissioner Garcia mentioned he would like to see the research and procedures that staff goes through before making the approval recommendation to the Commission.

Commissioner Quamme moved to approve the authorizations recommended by staff; motion seconded by Commissioner Garcia. The motion passed 9-0, with Commissioner Polsfut abstaining.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

THE 2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT ON REMEDIAL EDUCATION: Dr. Carnahan presented the remedial education report to the Commissioners. The report assesses recent high school graduates who are going to college and then are assigned to remediation in math, reading and writing. The report notes that math requires the most remediation in both 2-year and 4-year institutions.

Commissioner Baker said that he would like to go over this report in more detail with Department staff and Commissioners.

Commissioner Polsfut asked if the remediation has proven to be effective. Dr. Carnahan said that type of data will not be available until next year, when the first cohort of students that were assigned to remediation will graduate.

THE 2006 TEACHER EDUCATION REPORT: Dr. Carnahan presented the teacher education report and highlighted some pertinent facts and tables, specifically mentioning the continued challenge of increasing the number of minority students and ethnic students enrolled in teacher prep programs.

Commissioner Weaver mentioned the small number of physics endorsement students and asked if anything was being done about that. Dr. Carnahan mentioned the existence of the WIRED project which is looking at the number of students enrolled in STEM areas in the Front Range.

Executive Director Skaggs mentioned that this particular issue is a central topic on Governor Ritter's Jobs Cabinet docket.

Commissioner Garcia asked how many of the male, minority and ethnic teachers are being hired by Colorado school districts. He mentioned fewer teachers are linguistically diverse and school districts are having a hard time recruiting bi-lingual teachers.

Vicki Leal added that the University of Colorado at Boulder is institutionalizing a program that will actively and aggressively recruit math and science teachers using federal funds and soft money from the Exxon/Mobile Foundation.

Commissioner Stewart said the WIRED grant has been implemented in El Paso county addressing K-12 and workforce issues affecting southeastern Colorado.

Dr. Mark Malone, Faculty Advisory Member and a member of the Colorado Faculty Advisory Committee, said incentives need to be created to recruit teachers. Dr. Malone added that math and science needs to be addressed for the lower grade levels as well.

THE 2006 REPORT ON THE STATUS OF PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS: Ms. Vicki Leal provided the Commissioners with an update on the institutional performance contracts as well as protocols the Department follows for proper in-take, storage and archiving of

each institution's report. Ms. Leal provided a year-by-year account of current compliance updates as well as future due dates for specific status reports. Executive Director Skaggs said the Department has received its first periodic status reports, but noted that until 2010 there is no requirement for institutions to meet the goals in the performance contracts.

Commissioner Weaver said the spreadsheets show the metrics each institution uses to measure progress toward the 2010 goals; she said she would like to see the interim reports continue to make sure the 2010 goals remain under review.

Julie Carnahan said this is only the second year of COF and performance contracts and a minimum of three years of data are needed to see trends. Future years will reflect trends, but it is too early at this point.

In response to a question about which institutions are in compliance, Executive Director Skaggs replied that only one institution, Mesa State, has not yet submitted this year's status report.

Commissioner Weaver suggested annual reminders be sent to the institutions regarding the due date of the status reports.

THE 2006 LEGISLATIVE REPORT HB06-1024: Ms. Leal gave the Commissioners a brief report on the response to House Bill 2006-1024, programs and services designed to address the retention and success of underserved students enrolled at public colleges and universities in Colorado.

STATUS REPORT ON STAFF REVIEW OF THE 2010 HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS: Dr. Carnahan briefed the Commissioners on the staff review regarding the 2010 HEAR requirements. Department staff has held meetings with a number of interested and affected groups. During these meetings, consistent trends surfaced regarding implementation barriers of HEAR 2010 at high schools and in admissions processes at four-year institutions. While all groups are in favor of more rigorous admissions standards, there were concerns that once implemented, HEAR 2010 would have negative consequences on enrollment in college.

Commissioner Quamme asked how House Bill 1118 ties into the 2010 HEAR requirements. John Karakoulakis responded that HB1118 is flexible. Institutions are required to "align," but it is the school districts that will develop graduation requirements.

Executive Director Skaggs suggested with the continued interest in the HEAR requirements, a Commissioner's meeting be scheduled in July to discuss the HEAR requirements and consider any modifications. This was agreed to by the Commissioners, and the meeting will be scheduled the second week in July.

Commissioner Weaver suggested using the data from the Colorado Alignment Council to inform further discussion of this issue.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25.