

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting
November 1, 2007**

Chairman Raymond Baker called the meeting to order at 10:10 am.

Commissioners Raymond Baker, Jill Brake, Larry Beckner, James Polsfut, Edward Robinson and James Stewart were in attendance. Commissioners Patricia Pacey, Michael Plachy, Richard Ramirez and Greg Stevinson attended via conference call and Commissioner Joel Rosenstein was excused. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Mark Malone and Robert Applegate.

Tim Foster, President of Mesa State College, welcomed the Commissioners to the Mesa State campus. He gave the Commissioners an overview of the college, its economic impact and the challenges it is facing; he also discussed recent campus infrastructure improvements. and presented Mesa State Colleges FY 08-09 Decision Items Summary.

Commissioner Polsfut moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the corrected July 10, 2007 minutes. Commissioner Brake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Baker welcomed newly-appointed Commissioner Larry Beckner to the Commission.

There were no Chair, Commissioner, Advisory Committee or Executive Director Reports.

ACTION ITEMS

Campus Master Plans. Andrew Carlson, Director of Capital Assets, reported that three campus master plans had recently been reviewed pursuant to CRS 23-106 and Department of Higher Education policy that requires the plans be renewed, updated or redone every ten years. There are currently three plans that have undergone review.

Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) – Craig Campus Facilities Master Plan: CNCC is anticipating significant enrollment growth on its Craig campus primarily due to the boom in energy extraction in that area. Much of its space now is leased space and is inadequate.

Front Range Community College – Westminster Campus Facilities Master Plan: This campus was originally set up for a technical college, and the programs have become more academic in nature. The need is not for more space but for a significant reconfiguration of current space.

Front Range Community College – Larimer Campus Facilities Master Plan: This campus has had a significant enrollment growth primarily driven by the population growth in the area, and there is a need for more space.

John Boyd, President of Colorado Northwestern Community College and Mike Kupcho, vice President of Finance and Administration for the Front Range Community College expanded on Mr. Carlson's presentation of the details of each plan.

Commissioner Polsfut moved to approve the three master plans (Agenda Items II; A, B, and C) presented, and Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Cash-Funded Capital Construction Projects FY08-09: Andrew Carlson explained the difference between certain cash funded capital construction projects (costing above \$500,000, constructed entirely with cash funds, but eligible for state controlled maintenance moneys) and SB92-202 projects (cash projects built, operated and maintained with cash funds). After Commission approval, cash funded projects are submitted to the Capital Development Committee (CDC) and the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and must be authorized in the Long Bill each year before construction can begin. 202 projects do not have to be authorized in the Long Bill, they are included for informational purposes only, and construction can begin once the CDC and JBC approve the plan. Due in part to construction inflation, effect, institutions have begun to move projects through the expedited 202 review process, forgoing state maintenance dollars. The Department will propose legislation during the 2008 legislative session to change the review process for cash funded projects to mirror the expedited 202 review process.

The eight cash projects that require Commission approval employ a variety of cash funding mechanisms, including cash gifts from private donations, cash reserves, and bond financing, to meet construction goals. All institutions that submitted cash-funded project requests demonstrated that adequate funding sources will be available to complete construction of the projects.

Staff recommended that the Commission approve the following seven program plans for cash-funded capital projects and one continuing cash-funded project (CHS Regional Museums):

1. Colorado School of Mines General Research Lab Building Third Floor Build-Out Phase 1 of 1
2. Colorado State University New Engineering North Entrance
3. Colorado State University Industrial Arts Building Revitalization
4. Colorado State University Professional Veterinary Medicine Instructional Facility
5. Colorado State University VTH Community Practice Building
6. Colorado State University Health and Exercise Science Addition
7. Colorado Historical Society Regional Museums

Staff also recommended that the Commission approve the following program plan amendment for cash spending authority:

University of Colorado at Boulder Systems Biotechnology Building

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the items, and Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Department Budget Request: David Skaggs, Executive Director, explained to the Commission that the budget for fiscal year 2009 had been distributed as soon as the general fund amount was made public by the Governor's office. The higher education portion of the Governor's proposed budget is close to a \$60 million increase and is roughly an 8% increase in general fund support compared to the current year. Although that amount does not solve the financing problem for higher education, the 8% increase demonstrates the Governor's commitment to higher education given the many fiscal restraints the state faces.

Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer, elaborated that the request from the Department included a \$57 million general increase, plus \$1.7 million to restore funding to the work study program and \$800,000 for the pre-collegiate scholarship program. The budget funds a placeholder for the College Opportunity Fund, including the COF stipends and fee for service contracts with institutions. The allocation and distribution of funds will be determined following the completion of a total funding model being developed with the institutions. It is anticipated that the total funding model will be completed in December 2007.

Staff recommended the Commission approve the Department of Higher Education's FY 2009 budget.

Commissioner Brake moved to approve, and Commissioner Polsfut seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Title 23 Clean Up and Revision: David Skaggs explained to the Commission that this item was on the October 4th agenda and was tabled pending further preparatory work and explanation by staff. Since the October meeting the Department has received comments from institutions and has incorporated their suggestions in the redraft of Title 23. The Department will continue to take comments and will submit the proposal to the Legislative Drafting Office with sponsors from the General Assembly. This will be a work in progress for the next two or three months, working in collaboration with the institutions.

A motion to take this item from the table was made by Commissioner Robinson and was seconded by Commissioner Pacey. The motion passed unanimously.

John Karakoulakis, Director of Legislative Affairs, explained the changes made since the October meeting. There is now a definition section included to clarify when the Department of Higher Education and when the Commission on Higher Education are referred to. A final draft will be brought back to the Commissioners for further review. Staff recommended that the Commission endorse the proposed legislation pending final review of the draft.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the endorsement, and Commissioner Polsfut seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commission Resolution – University of Colorado at Boulder Systems Biotechnology Building Capital Construction Request: Andrew Carlson reported that this project was addressed at the October meeting by Robert Moore, Vice President of Budget and Finance for the University of Colorado System. Last year the project was on the list for state funding from the legislature but did not make the final list and therefore was not funded. The institution moved forward by raising cash funds for over 80% of the project and submitted it as a cash project this year, but plans to ask the state for \$20 million, the remaining funds to complete the \$120 million project in FY09-10 and FY10-11.

Staff recommended a Commission resolution supporting this project and anticipating it will be prioritized appropriately next year in the FY09-10 capital construction request.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to adopt the resolution, and Commissioner Brake seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution Concerning Higher Education Finances and FY09 Budget: David Skaggs presented this budget resolution outlining unmet fiscal needs at institutions of higher education. The resolution recognizes that the budget the Commission approved does not deal adequately with all of those needs, makes the Commission's position clear to avoid any misinterpretation that it believes the proposed level of funding is adequate and acknowledges that there is much more work to be done to bring Colorado's institutions up to national average.

Commissioner Brake moved to adopt the resolution, and Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT ITEMS

Admissions Standards Policy: Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, recounted the policy changes made as a result of the changes made by the Commission to the Phase I (2008) HEAR policy at the August Commission meeting and changes made to the Phase II (2010) HEAR policy at the July meeting. The first change to Phase I provided an exemption for students with index scores more than 10 points above the minimum score for an institution, (except for Metropolitan State College of Denver, 15 points above minimum). The second change allowed the 20% window to be allocated on a state-wide basis. The changes made to Phase II included a new definition of the fourth year of math to allow mathematics from an applied area such as statistics, computer science or economics, and the reduction in the foreign language requirement to one year. Adoption of the proposed official policy language is necessary to reflect these changes,

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the policy language, and Chairman Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

College Opportunity Fund Status Report: John Karakoulakis advised the Commissioners that C.R.S. §23-18-207 requires the Commission to submit to the Senate and House Education Committees and to the Joint Budget Committee an annual report on the status of the College

Opportunity Fund (COF) and presented the COF FY05-06, FY06-07 Status Report for approval.

Commissioner Stewart moved to accept the report. Commissioner Baker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Proposal to Offer a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Public Communication and Technology: Julie Carnahan reported the Colorado State University system has submitted a proposal for a Ph.D. in Public Communication and Technology degree. This is an information item only; no formal action by the Commission is required.

Proposal to Offer a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Biochemistry: Julie Carnahan reported the University of Colorado at Boulder has submitted a proposal for a Ph. D. in Biochemistry degree. This is an information item only; no formal action by the Commission is required.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.