

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting

April 11, 2008

Chairman Raymond Baker called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

Commissioners Raymond Baker, Larry Beckner, Patricia Pacey, James Polsfut, Richard Ramirez and James Stewart were in attendance. Commissioner Edward Robinson attended via conference call. Commissioners Jill Brake, Michael Plachy and Greg Stevinson were excused. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Senator Gail Schwartz, Representative Randy Fischer, Dr. Mark Malone, Dr. Toni Larson, Dr. Alan Lamborn, Phil Fox and Jack Wylie. Advisory Committee member Bill Mansheim attended via conference call. Senate Education Committee members Sue Windels and Suzanne Williams also attended.

Commissioner Pacey moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2008 meeting and the March 11th meeting with the amended correction that she attended the March 7th meeting via conference call, not in person, as reflected in the minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and unanimously passed.

Commissioner Larry Beckner reported to the Commission on a roundtable discussion the Governor held in Grand Junction earlier in the week. The Governor discussed legislation proposed to implement Cap4Kids and funding for higher education, specifically the footnote added to the Long Bill that would allow students to vote to raise their own tuition by \$5 per credit hour.

Executive Director Report – Executive Director David Skaggs informed the Commission that the Lumina Foundation had selected Colorado as one of 11 finalists out of 37 states that applied for major funding from the Foundation. A team from Colorado will visit Chapel Hill, North Carolina for further briefings by the Foundation on their expectations for successfully completing the application process.

AGENDA ITEMS

University of Colorado Denver Programs for the College of Architecture and Planning – Ryan Stubbs, Capital Assets Coordinator, presented a new program plan for the University of Colorado Denver, College of Architecture and Planning. This project is requesting both state and cash funding for FY 2009-2010. The total request is \$42,000,000, with \$27,000,000 in state-funds and \$15,000,000 in cash-funds. The plan is being brought forth at the present time because the institution will be able to fundraise more effectively for projects that have received program approval from the Commission.

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the program plan for the University of Colorado Denver. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner and unanimously passed.

Degree Authorization Act – American University for Humanities – Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer and Heather Delange, Degree Authorization Act Officer, informed the Commission that American University for the Humanities had been previously granted

preliminary authorization as a private degree granting institution and was now applying for a Category II authorization, which will allow them to enroll students. This request was received in August 2007. Upon investigation, Matthew McKeever, then Degree Authorization Act Officer for the department, found that the institution, previously operating under a different name, was found by the State of Hawaii to have engaged in improper conduct and was required to cease and desist operations in Hawaii. The organization filed new papers of incorporation, changed its name and leadership and has since complied with existing rules applicable to its Colorado application. The American University for Humanities is in good standing with the American Association of Liberal Education (AALE), the accrediting agency they are seeking accreditation from. The AALE has accredited other sites for this institution internationally; however, that has no bearing on national accreditation. Staff believes that the institution has adequately demonstrated that it is in compliance; the institution will be monitored on their performance in Colorado.

Mr. Matthew Woitell, Director of Information for the American University for Humanities, stated that he was unaware of the institution's history in Hawaii. He said he could not speak to what had happened in Hawaii, only to the institution's present and future compliance with state guidelines.

Commissioner Stewart moved to table the item until further information about this institution could be obtained. Commissioner Polsfut seconded the motion. The motion failed by a vote of 5 to 2.

Chairman Robinson then moved to accept staff's recommendation. Commissioner Beckner seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 5 to 2.

State Guaranteed General Education Courses, Review Cycle VI, Round II – Vicki Leal, Academic Policy Officer, asked that the Commission formally approve 24 courses for the general education guaranteed statewide transfer program, referred to as gtPathways. The 24 courses were recommended by faculty reviewers at a meeting on February 29, 2008.

Commissioner Polsfut moved to formally approve the courses. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stewart and unanimously passed.

Recommended Funding Priorities, FY2008-2009 Certificates of Participation Using Federal Mineral Lease Dollars – Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer and Ryan Stubbs, Capital Assets Coordinator, informed the Commission that the Department worked with the Office of State Budget and Planning and the Commission's Capital Development Sub-Committee to create a recommended priority list when Senate Bill 08-219 was introduced. This bill could allow for a percentage of state revenues for Federal Mineral Leasing to finance Certificates of Participation (COPs) for higher education capital construction projects. The Commissioners considered the staff recommendations for 32 capital construction projects for COP priority for approval for submission to Capital Development Committee and the Joint Budget Committee.

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the COP priority recommendations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacey and unanimously passed.

CONSENT ITEMS

Additional Cash Projects for the University of Colorado Denver and Colorado State University FY2008-2009 - Ryan Stubbs, Capital Assets Coordinator, presented two additional cash-funded program plans that had been received since the Commission approved projects in December. One program plan is for the University of Colorado Denver Business School, which will purchase and renovate a total of 153,117 Gross Square Feet (GSF) at a cost of \$39,550,000 Cash Funds Exempt (CFE). The second plan is for the Colorado State University VTH PET-CT Equipment Purchase and Associated Space Modifications for \$2,910,000 CFE and \$1,400,000 Federal Funds (FF). Both of these plans were approved by DHE staff and by the Capital Development Committee.

Commissioner Polsfut moved to approve the cash-funded programs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacey and unanimously passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Legislative Update – John Karakoulakis, Director of Legislative Affairs, advised the Commissioners of bills being tracked by the Department: SB 18, the Higher Education Clean Up bill, passed in both the House and the Senate and is awaiting the Governor's signature; HB 1205, the Capital Construction Threshold Increase bill has been signed by the Governor; SB 167, the Reauthorization Act, will be heard in the House Education Committee on Monday, April 14th.

Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget Update – Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer, informed the Commission that the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) concluded figure setting for the Department of Higher Education on March 14, 2008, truing up the FY07-08 College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipends and fee for service contract allocations and tuition revenue spending authority. The JBC set COF and financial aid allocations, as well as tuition spending authority in the FY08-09 Long Bill. The overall General Fund increase to the governing boards is \$54.2 million. The JBC slightly modified the tuition policy approved by the Commission on Tuesday, March 11, 2008, raising the allowable rate increases for resident undergraduate students to 5.5%, 7.5%, and 9.5% at community colleges, four-year institutions, and research institutions, respectively. The JBC approved an increase of about \$7.3 million for state need-based grants and increases of \$1.7 million for the work-study program and \$800,000 for pre-collegiate scholarship programs. The final capital construction priority list approved by the JBC includes \$188 million for capital construction and controlled maintenance projects, of which \$129.5 million is for higher education projects.

Proposal to Offer a Doctor of Public Health at the University of Colorado Denver – Heather Delange, Degree Authorization Act Officer, informed the Commission that the Board of Regents for the University of Colorado System has approved a proposal submitted by the University System for a Doctor of Public Health to be offered by the University of Colorado Denver through the Colorado School of Public Health.

Status of HEAR 2010 Consultation with the Department of Education – Heather Delange informed the Commission that staff had been working with the Department of Education on a survey of school districts to learn whether additional waivers were necessary to implement HEAR 2010 successfully. The next step will be to work with admissions staff at the universities and colleges to ensure the institutions can implement the waiver.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.