

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting

December 11, 2008

Chairman James Polsfut called the meeting to order at 9:50 am.

Commissioners James Polsfut, Hereford Percy, BJ Scott, Michael Plachy, Patricia Pacey and Happy Haynes were in attendance. Commissioners Richard Ramirez, Edward Robinson, Greg Stevinson and Larry Beckner attended via conference call. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Bill Mansheim, Alan Lamborn, Jack Wylie and Donna Theimer.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

President Joe Garcia welcomed the Commission to Colorado State University-Pueblo (CSU-P) and presented an overview of the CSU-P long-range strategic plan.

Chairman James Polsfut presented former Commissioner James Stewart with a Tribute for his years of service to the Commission.

Commissioner Report: Commissioner BJ Scott reported that she and Commissioner Jill Brake attended the SB212 meeting co-convened by Executive Director David Skaggs and Commissioner Dwight Jones of the Colorado Department of Education on December 3rd in Colorado Springs.

Public Comment: George Walker of Denver spoke to the Commission about the importance of funding for higher education as it relates to the economy and about having a non-regressive tax or funding mechanism for higher education.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Briefing on Collaborative Efforts by Public Institutions of Higher Education in Southern Colorado - The CEOs of Adams State College, Colorado State University-Pueblo, Lamar Community College, Otero Community College, Pueblo Community College, Pikes Peak Community College, Trinidad State Junior College and University of Colorado-Colorado Springs briefed the Commission on the Southern Colorado Innovation Strategy, a cooperative effort between the institutions. The eight CEOs reported to the Commission their collaborative efforts and the challenges that their institutions face in the southern portion of the state.

Briefing on *College In Colorado Outreach to High Schools & CACG Grant Work-plan* – Dawn Taylor Owens, Executive Director, College In Colorado (CIC), briefed the Commission on the efforts her division has been making to help fulfill Governor Ritter's Colorado Promise. She explained that CIC is improving college access and is helping more students in Colorado go to college and graduate. The cornerstone of the CIC campaign is their website which allows parents and students to plan, apply and pay for college and has a national reputation for excellence.

Janet Gullickson, Chief Outreach and Client Relations Officer, College Invest, briefed the Commission on the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) program, a federal program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The CACG for Colorado is \$1.7 million. College Invest and College In Colorado provide an in-kind match that brings the total CACG funding to \$2.6 million.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Africana Studies and Mexican American Studies Secondary Social Studies Programs at the University of Northern Colorado – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy officer for Teacher Education, presented for the Commission’s approval two proposed secondary social studies teacher preparation programs at the University of Northern Colorado: a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts in Mexican American Studies.

Commissioner Plachy moved to approve the proposed programs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and passed unanimously.

Approval of Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at the University of Phoenix – Dr. Ian Macgillivray presented for the Commission’s approval a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (BSED) at the University of Phoenix. The program was approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) on August 9, 2007. During a recent re-approval site visit at the University of Phoenix, Dr. Macgillivray discovered that CCHE had not received the original recommendation of approval from SBE. This program is being recommended for initial approval as a new program having met the department’s performance criteria.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the proposed program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacey and passed unanimously.

State Guaranteed General Education Courses, Review Cycle VI, Round III – Vicki Leal, Academic Policy Officer, presented to the Commission recommendations for courses nominated by institutions, reviewed by faculty and recommended for the general education guaranteed statewide transfer program, gtPathways, during Cycle VI, Round III (October 24, 2008). The recommendations represent the outcome of faculty consideration of 130 course nominations for approval and placement into the gtPathways program, effective August 2009.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the 130 courses. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Plachy and passed unanimously.

Revisions to Policy Section IV: Statewide Extended Studies - Matt McKeever, Director of Extended Studies, presented for the Commission’s approval changes to Part D inadvertently omitted from the approved revisions to Policy Section IV: Statewide Extended Studies and required to reflect SB 08-018. At the September 11, 2008 meeting, the Commission approved the revisions but without the changes to Part D.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the additional revisions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and passed unanimously.

OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS

FY2009 Report of Teacher Preparation for the General Assembly – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, presented to the Commission the FY2009 Report on Teacher Preparation for their information. This annual report for the General Assembly is required by C.R.S. 23-1-121(6). Although teacher education enrollment is down overall in the state, private institutions have increased enrollment.

Sara Dahlman, Dean of the School of Education at Colorado Christian University (CCU), addressed the Commission about the strategies used by CCU to increase enrollment: their attention to the Colorado geographic program needs; their attention to preparing teachers who can immediately impact student learning by connecting classroom instruction with seminar groups led by master teacher discussing what skills, knowledge and tools the students will need to be successful; and the ability to quickly adapt their education programs as needed.

2008 Legislative Report on Remedial Education – Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, presented to the Commission the 2008 Legislative Report on Remedial Education. The Department is required to prepare an annual report of students taking basic skills courses at Colorado's public higher education institutions for the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Joint Budget Committee, and the Colorado Department of Education.

2009 Legislative Agenda – Due to time constraints, this report was postponed.

Commissioner Percy moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.