## Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting January 18, 2008

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

Commissioners Raymond Baker, Jill Brake, Patricia Pacey, Michael Plachy, James Polsfut, Richard Ramirez, Edward Robinson, James Stewart and Greg Stevinson were in attendance. Commissioners Larry Beckner and Joel Rosenstein attended via conference call. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Senator Nancy Spence, Representative Randy Fischer, Representative Nancy Todd, Dr. Mark Malone, Aaron "Jack" Wylie and Dr. Toni Larson. Senate Education Committee member Senator Sue Windels also attended.

President Linda Bowman welcomed the Commission to the Community College of Aurora and gave the Commissioners a brief overview of the college and the programs offered.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2007 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stewart and unanimously passed.

Chairman Baker welcomed new Advisory Committee members, Dr. Toni Larson and Aaron "Jack" Wylie.

Commissioner Stewart distributed a memorandum to the Commissioners reporting on the Governor's two-day Statewide Dropout Summit held December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> which he attended. He introduced Janet Lopez from the Governor's policy office, who briefed the Commission on the summit. America's Promise Alliance, a national organization, approached the Governor's office and asked Colorado to apply for a grant to be one of the first three states, along with Tennessee and Minnesota, to hold a dropout summit. The Colorado grant proposed examining best practices currently employed nationally and in Colorado, as well as determining what the state's role should be and how state level politicians should be involved.

Dr. Ned Calonge, from the Department of Public Health and Environment, briefed the Commission on current planning for pandemic flu in higher education. He outlined what higher education institutions can do to prepare for pandemic flu. He also discussed Senate Bill 08-44 which would require all college and university students to undergo a tuberculosis risk assessment and possible testing.

Dr. Matt Gianneschi briefed the Commission on the Governor's Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids. This plan proposes: (1) to establish post-secondary preparation as an expectation for every student in Colorado's secondary schools; (2) to develop 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade standards with clarified expectations from higher education to state exactly what skills are needed regarding readiness to successfully enter college; (3) to create a model content standard to address the lack of coherence between preschool, K-12 and higher education; and (4) to modify assessments in order to better interpret preparedness.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Proposed Legislation Concerning the Capital Construction Approval Process** – Andrew Carlson, Director of Capital Assets, reported that the Department of Higher Education (DHE) is proposing legislation to be carried by the Capital Construction Committee in the 2008 Legislative Session. This legislation would modify how cash projects are reviewed and approved by the General Assembly to address construction hyper-inflation delays from the lengthy review process and the increasing number of institutions that are self-funding capital projects. The bill would also raise thresholds below which formal approval is not required.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to formally endorse and support the proposed legislation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stewart and unanimously passed.

Commission Support for Possible Legislation Concerning Higher Education Capital Funding - Andrew Carlson reported that DHE's Task Force on Alternative Funding for Capital Construction and Controlled Maintenance made recommendations to the Governor's office addressing the backlog of higher education capital funding. He reported that legislation to address this backlog during the General Assembly session is likely.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to formally endorse and support the proposal of legislation to the 2008 General Assembly to address the backlog in capital construction in higher education institutions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Baker and unanimously passed.

Approval of Department of Education Nominees for Advisory Committee – Executive Director David Skaggs presented the Academic Affairs Council's nomination of Dr. Alan Lamborn, to be its representative, and the Education Commissioner Dwight Jones' nominations of Mr. Phil Fox and Mr. Darryl Bond, to represent K-12 education on the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the nominations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brake and unanimously passed.

**Policy for Advisory Committee Expense Reimbursement** – Executive Director Skaggs recommended the Commission adopt a policy authorizing the reimbursement of expenses incurred by Advisory Committee members in attending meetings of the Commission to be limited to roundtrip mileage costs from the member's residence or place of employment to the site of a Commission meeting, with mileage calculated in accordance with the then current rates promulgated for state employees by the Department of Personnel & Administration.

Commissioner Brake moved to adopt the formal policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ramirez and unanimously passed.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2007 Legislative Report on Remediation** – Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, gave the annual report on students taking basic skills courses at Colorado's public institutions of higher education. This report comes from data compiled by DHE staff and will be submitted to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Joint Budget Committee and the Colorado Department of Education. The report will also be distributed to Colorado's public school district superintendents.

**Title 23 Clean-up Legislation** – Executive Director Skaggs presented the introduced version of the Title 23 clean-up and revision bill. The bill clarifies the roles of the Department of Higher Education and the Commission on Higher Education. It also removes provisions that are duplicative or obsolete..

**Update of Fiscal Year 2008-09 Budget Process** – Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Peer Gap Funding Model will not be used until FY 2010 because of the need to examine technical and policy issues embedded in the model. An interim funding allocation proposal is being developed by DHE for review by the CEOs on Wednesday, January 23, 2008. A recommendation will be brought to the Commission on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.