

## **Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting**

**March 7, 2008**

Chairman Raymond Baker called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

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

Dr. Roderick Nairn, Vice Chancellor of the University of Colorado at Denver Health Science Campus, welcomed the Commission and gave the Commissioners a brief overview of the college and the programs offered.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and unanimously passed.

Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, re-introduced Dr. Nairn, who gave a presentation on the Colorado School of Public Health, a collaborative partnership between the University of Colorado, the University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University.

Commissioner Jill Brake gave an update on the Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB) Winter Conference. Item discussed at the conference: the need to create partnerships with all segments of the community, higher education, state policy makers and local leaders to plan for future achievement for students; the need to maintain and strengthen the trust of school districts in CASB; and the need for multiple education pathways, such as individual pathways to excellence, hands-on technical training and a diverse curriculum. At the conference, there was agreement that K-12 and higher education should continue to work together to achieve the goals for the students of Colorado.

Dr. Matt Gianneschi, the Governor's Policy Advisor on Education, briefed the Commissioners on legislation proposed to implement the Cap4Kids policy and what the implications might be for the Commission on Higher Education (CCHÉ) and the Department of Higher Education (DHE). The intent of the legislation is to create: a common definition of what post-secondary and work force readiness means; to create a common expectation to be negotiated between K-12 education and higher education; and a requirement that the Commission on Higher Education and the State Board of Education agree to the standards for the K-12 system. There is full commitment of the legislative leadership for this bill.

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

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**FY 2008-2009 Tuition Policy** – Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer, and Andrew Carlson, Director of Budget and Financial Aid, presented the tuition policy recommendations to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) for FY 2008-2009. The Department recommends the following maximum tuition rate increases at state institutions of higher education for undergraduate and graduate resident students:

- Research Institutions (University of Colorado System, Colorado State University System, Colorado School of Mines, and the University of Northern Colorado) – 9%
- State Institutions (Adams State College, Metropolitan State College of Denver, Fort Lewis College, and Western State College) – 7%
- Community College System – 5%

At the research and four-year institutions, Pell Level I, II and III students would be held to an effective 5% tuition rate increase through financial aid buy-downs. Institutions would be responsible for administering aid packages to qualified applicants using increased institutional aid to qualified students, the 10% increase in the federal Pell grant, increased state grants, or a combination of sources. Pell Level I students are the state's financially most needy students whose expected family contribution (EFC) is up to 150% of the amount required to be eligible for a federal Pell grant. Level II students are those with EFCs between 150 and 200% of Pell eligibility. Level III students are defined as any student with financial need. In FY06-07, the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) of Level I and Level II students was \$20,576 and \$54,110, respectively.

Dr. Kay Norton, President of the University of Northern Colorado suggested that the micromanaging of tuition policy results in further complexity but not necessarily increased access for the neediest students of Colorado. She urged the Commission to consider the adopting a simple recommendation to present to the JBC that looks at overall spending authority and the disclosure of the total cost of attendance

Dr. Steven Jordan, Metropolitan State College of Denver, expressed his concerns regarding making separate decisions about general funding and tuition without understanding their interaction and what the implications might be for implementing the NCHEMS-gap model. He informed the Commission that his institution will have to use some tuition funds to complete a new science building because of a late-added requirement for \$12.5 million contribution from the three institutions on the Auraria Campus, with Metropolitan State College's portion to come from 1 to 2% of their tuition income. Dr. Jordan also asked the Commission to support the concept of a supplemental request of cash spending authority to adjust the institutions base.

Robert Moore, Vice President of Budget and Finance for the University of Colorado, recommended removing the tuition cap for resident graduate students.

Katie Gleeson, Student Body President at Colorado State University and August Ritter, Director of Legislative Affairs at Colorado State University, advised that the students would like to see a specific and unambiguous tuition policy set by the Commission. They agreed with a tuition cap and asked that the cap be 9% or less for research institutions. The students asked for clarification about whether a tuition cap encompasses credit window closures or differential tuition.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to accept to approve the FY 2008-2009 tuition policy with an amendment to remove the resident graduate tuition cap. Commissioner Beckner seconded the motion. The motion failed by a 5 to 3 vote.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to table the agenda item until a continuation meeting of the Commission set for Tuesday, March 11th. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner and passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Legislative Update** – John Karakoulakis, Director of Legislative Affairs, advised the Commissioners of bills being tracked by the Department: HB 1205, the Capital Construction bill; SB 18, the Higher Education Clean Up bill; and SB 167, the Degree Authorization bill.

Executive Director Skaggs briefed the Commissioners on HB 1068, the Veterans Tuition Waiver Military Decoration bill.

**Degree Authorization Act – American Health Science University** – Heather Delange, Academic Program Coordinator, reported that the American Health Science University was authorized to offer a Master of Nutrition Science in October 2000 by the Commission. The University voluntarily ceased operations, effective January 11, 2008, and elected to resign its accreditation with the Distance Education and Training Council.

**Capital Development Committee Final Priority List – FY 2008-2009 Capital Construction Projects** – Ryan Stubbs, Capital Assets Coordinator, updated the Commission on the progress of higher education capital projects prioritized by the Commission on October 4, 2007. He explained that the Office of Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) integrated the CCHE priorities with all other state agency capital priorities. Both the integrated OSPB/CCHE list and the list of higher education projects prioritized only by the Commission were submitted to the Capital Development Committee (CDC) on November 1, 2007. The CDC finalized priority list for FY 2008-2009 capital construction projects would be forwarded to the JBC.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

**FY 2008-2009 Budget Initiative for Underrepresented Students in Colorado** – Diane Lindner, reported that a budget amendment for an appropriation of \$4.9 million in General Fund was submitted to the Governor's office and the JBC for allocation through the fee-for-service contract component of the Colorado Opportunity Fund program. This allocation would go to institutions that typically serve underserved populations and have a large percentage of students who require remediation prior to beginning post-secondary level coursework. It also requested that the JBC allow local district colleges, who are not in the fee-for-service contract category, to participate in the program.

Commissioner Beckner moved to approve the proposed allocation for favorable action by the JBC in preparation for the FY 09 Long Appropriations Bill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brake and passed unanimously.

**Degree Authorization Act – Chamberlain College** – Heather Delange reported to the Commission that Chamberlain College of Nursing has formally requested to operate in Colorado. This existing institution whose current sites are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities and the Commission

on Collegiate Nursing Education. Chamberlain College of Nursing has applied for Preliminary Authorization through the Degree Authorization Act. Department staff has reviewed the required documents and recommends the Commission approve Preliminary Authorization for Chamberlain College of Nursing.

Commissioner Brake moved to approve Preliminary Authorization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stewart and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.