# Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting Community College of Aurora December 3, 2009

Chairman James Polsfut called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

Commissioners James Polsfut, Hereford Percy, Larry Beckner, Jill Brake, Patricia Pacey, Happy Haynes, Dave Edwards, Greg Stevinson and Regina Rodriguez were in attendance. Commissioner BJ Scott attended via conference call. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Dr. Alan Lamborn, Toni Larson and Donna Theimer. Advisory committee member Bill Mansheim attended via teleconference.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevinson and unanimously passed.

Dr. Linda Bowman, President of the Community College of Aurora, welcomed the Commission and gave a brief overview of the campus.

**Chair Report:** Chairman Polsfut introduced two new Commissioners: Regina Rodriguez from the 7th Congressional District and Dave Edwards from the 4th Congressional District. Chairman Polsfut read into the record the resolutions of tribute to former Commissioners Richard Ramirez and Edward Robinson.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the resolutions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

**Commissioners Report:** Commission BJ Scott reported that she attended a reauthorization site visit to the Teacher Preparation Program at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and commended Dr. Ian Macgillivray for doing an excellent job.

**Executive Director Report:** Executive Director Rico Munn acknowledged the resignation of Chief Academic Officer Dr. Julie Carnahan from the Department and thanked her for her time and service.

He spoke of the Commission's goals and responsibilities, and introduced the idea of holding Commission meetings at high schools and businesses to better reflect the Commission's range of constituencies.

Executive Director Munn told the Commission that he and Chairman Polsfut had attended the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) hearing on December 2. The public institutions presented their budget needs to the JBC.

Executive Director Munn also presented to the Commission a concept paper for the strategic planning process and introduced the name, Colorado PEAK Plan, with the acronym PEAK standing for Purpose, Excellence, Access and K-12 transition.

Executive Director Munn proposed that the Commission adopt a workplan for the year, establishing a clear agenda of duties and issues it would address.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

Five-Year State Funded And Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Improvement Program Lists – Dan Krug, Financial and Compliance Analyst, requested the Commission approve the unified five-year and unified two-year reports of capital construction projects submitted by institutions of higher education. The five-year list is a prioritized five-year projection of projects requesting state funding. The two-year list is an un-prioritized two-year projection of projects that will be constructed using only cash funds. These lists are used for longer-term planning purposes. Mr. Krug noted that since these lists had been put together, the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs had submitted an amendment to their two-year cash funded list and Northeastern Junior College changed their cash-funded new residents hall from a non-intercept to an intercept project.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the five-year and two-year reports of capital construction projects including the amendments from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs and Northeastern Junior College. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and unanimously passed.

Commission Approval of Capital Projects Using the Financing Instruments in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and HB09-1346 — Andrew Carlson, Budget Director, recommended the Commission approve one cash-funded capital construction project to be financed under the Recovery Zone Economic Development Bond volume cap (RZEDB) and three capital construction projects to be financed under the Recovery Zone Private Facility Bond volume cap (Private Facility Bond).

The first project is a request from Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) for \$12.5 million of RZEDB volume cap to help renovate existing facilities on the Auraria Campus.

The other three projects all benefit the University of Colorado-Denver. The first is a full service hotel and conference center; the second is a Hyatt Place Hotel and the third a facility located at Denver Health for adolescent psychiatry. Representatives from the University of Colorado and Fitzsimmons Redevelopment Authority, along with financial partners Westside Investment Partners and Corporex, Gateway Hospitality Group and Denver Health gave brief presentations about the University of Colorado projects.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the allocation of Recovery Zone Economic Development Bond volume cap for the four capital construction projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevinson and unanimously passed.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Proposal to Offer of Masters of Professional Accountancy (MPAcc) Degree for Metropolitan State College of Denver (Metro State) - The MPAcc, a new degree program in the Accounting Department, is designed to develop in-depth competence of accounting skills and practices within a student's chosen concentration; taxation, fraud and forensic audit, or accounting.

In response to a question from the Commission about the financial viability of new programs during tough budget times, Dr. Steven Jordan, President of Metro State, noted that both the MPAcc program and the MSW program in the following item have been designed to be 100 percent self-supporting and will not have any general fund appropriation allocated to them. Commissioners also questioned whether this same degree program is offered by other institutions on the Auraria campus or in Colorado, to which Dr. Jordan explained that Metro's program is different and that the new program is needed as the state moves to new credit requirements for CPAs.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the MPAcc program at Metro State. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy. There were eight votes for and two votes against. The motion passed.

**Proposal to Offer a Master of Social Work Degree for Metropolitan State College of Denver (Metro State) -** The new program will educate a diverse group of MSW-level professional social workers to function as advanced practitioners, community leaders and administrators in a multicultural and global society.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the MSW program at Metro State. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Science in Nutrition for University of Northern Colorado - The Board of Trustees of the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) has submitted a proposal for a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Nutrition. The objective in offering the degree is to create a place for students wanting to study nutrition and food that is separate from dietetic majors who have a specific goal to become registered dietitians.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the BS program at UNC. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brake and unanimously passed.

### **INFORMATION ITEM**

**Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Financial Aid Report** – Celina Duran, Financial Aid Administrator, summarized the financial aid expenditures from the FY 2008-09 Long Bill appropriations for the Commission. Commissioner Haynes requested information on whether the new 2008 financial aid policy had had any impact on access and retention rates by race or ethnicity. Dr. Jason

Presley, Director of Information and Research at the Department, will present an information item at the January 8, 2010 CCHE meeting addressing the Commissioner's questions.

## **PRESENTATION ITEMS**

Colorado's Higher Education Leadership in Teacher Preparation – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, along with Dr. Lorrie Shepard, Dean of the School of Education at the University of Colorado-Boulder and Dr. Lynn Rhodes, Dean of the University of Colorado-Denver School of Education, informed the Commission of a report being issued shortly by the National Organization for Teacher Quality (NOTQ). This organization issues an annual report card on states' performance in teacher preparation. Based on the organization's evaluation criteria and on past reports, Colorado will likely not be graded well. Dr. Shepard and Dr. Rhodes explained why Colorado believes that the NOTQ's methodology does not fairly assess Colorado's programs, and also referred Commissioners to their editorial in the December 3, 2009 issue of the Denver Post defending Colorado's teacher education programs.

**Commission Workplan Proposal Memorandums** – Executive Director Munn elaborated on his proposal that the Commission adopt a work plan and on his suggestion that the workplan include strategic plan guidance and reviewing performance contracts for the institutions. The primary goal of the work plan is to provide the Commission a more proactive agenda and role in higher education policy. The Commissioners were in favor of the idea.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.