

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting
Colorado Community College System, July 9, 2009**

Chairman James Polsfut called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Commissioners James Polsfut, Hereford Percy, Larry Beckner, Edward Robinson, Greg Stevinson, and Michael Plachy were in attendance. Commissioners BJ Scott and Patricia Pacey attended via teleconference. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Representative Nancy Todd, Darryl Bonds, Dr. Alan Lamborn, Jack Wylie, Dr. Toni Larson and Donna Theimer. Advisory Committee member Representative Kevin Priola attended via teleconference.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

Nancy McCallin, President of the Colorado Community College System, welcomed the Commission to the Lowry Campus and gave the Commissioners a brief overview of the programs offered by the Community Colleges, noting that enrollment in the community colleges is increasing due to the economic downturn.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director David Skaggs reported on next steps for the Commission and the State Board of Education related to the recently adopted description of post-secondary and workforce readiness and other tasks under Senate Bill 212. This may include another joint meeting of the Commission and the State Board of Education before the end of the year.

Public Comment: State Senator Keith King addressed the Commission asking for support for legislation expanding state wide articulation agreements between two- and four-year institutions.

Mr. George Walker of Denver addressed the Commission about the lack of teachers of color in the Denver public school and said he believes that the Commission can do more to encourage Colorado's public colleges and universities to address this shortfall.

ACTION/CONSENT ITEMS

Approval Of Master Of Arts In Education Program At Western State College – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, prepared this item for approval.

Proposal To Offer A Baccalaureate Degree In Ethnic Studies By Colorado State University – Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, prepared this item for approval.

Proposal To Offer A Master Of Landscape Architecture Degree By Colorado State University – Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, prepared this item for approval.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the action/consent items. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Percy and unanimously passed.

STUDY/DISCUSSION ITEM

Framework For Strategic Planning For Higher Education – Executive Director David Skaggs presented the latest draft framework document for the strategic planning initiative to the Commission for review. This document will remain in draft and under review until the September 10, 2009 Commission meeting.

The discussion that following included comments from Advisory members Dr. Toni Larson, Alan Lamborn, Donna Theimer and Representative Nancy Todd as well as Dr. Nancy McCallin, Dr. Jay Helman, President of Western State College and several of the Commissioners.

ACTION ITEM

Resolution Regarding a Special Commission Meeting for Higher Education Strategic Planning Initiative – Executive Director Skaggs presented to the Commission a Resolution to schedule a special meeting for September 21, 2009 and to authorize department staff to proceed with necessary arrangements.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Plachy and unanimously passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Higher Education Capital Financing Instruments in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and HB09-1346 – Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer and Andrew Carlson, Budget Director, described to the Commission three possible opportunities for institutions of higher education to realize savings through lower bond rates on self-financed capital projects: Build America Bonds, the Recovery Zone Economic Development Bond Volume Cap, and the Recovery Zone Facility Bond Volume Cap. Each of these programs is included in the Federal stimulus legislation known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and corresponding state enabling legislation (HB09-1346). These instruments apply to cash-funded capital projects and are not allocations of Federal moneys for state capital needs.

JUNE 2009 REVENUE FORECAST UPDATE – Diane Lindner and Andrew Carlson presented to the Commission a summarization of the June 2009 revenue forecasts from the Legislative Council and the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting and their possible impact on the FY08-09 and FY09-10 state budgets.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.