Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting

March 6, 2009

Chairman James Polsfut called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm via teleconference.

Commissioners James Polsfut, Hereford Percy, Jill Brake, BJ Scott, Michael Plachy, Happy Haynes, Richard Ramirez, Greg Stevinson, Edward Robinson, Patricia Pacey and Larry Beckner attended via teleconference. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Donna Theimer, Toni Larson, Alan Lamborn and Representative Randy Fischer.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

Public Comment: Mr. George Walker of Denver expressed his views on the lack of funding for higher education and the effect it has on diversity. He also spoke of the lack of diversity in the environmental sciences.

INFORMATION ITEM

Legislation Update for 2009 General Assembly – John Karakoulakis, Director of Legislative Affairs, updated the Commission on legislation affecting higher education. HB1272, the implementation of Amendment 50, has passed in the House and the Senate Education Committees. The department is also tracking the following bills: HB1290 which provides additional tuition assistance for members of the National Guard; HB1295 which permits Metropolitan State College of Denver to offer master's degree programs; SB52 which transfers 15 cents of waste tire recycling to the Colorado Higher Education Research Authority; and SB170 which allows non-resident students, who meet the requirements put forth by the bill, to receive in-state tuition classification, the COF stipend and state financial aid.

2009-2010 Budget Update – Executive Director David Skaggs reported on the components of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that pertain to higher education. The key component is the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF), which has a total appropriation of \$53.3 billion. Of that amount, Colorado will receive approximately \$760 million for both K-12 and post-secondary education, with 81.8% of the state's allocation to be used to restore funding for K-12 and post-secondary education to the appropriated FY07-08 or FY08-09 funding levels, whichever is higher. The Office of State Planning and Budget does not expect this funding will be enough to take K-12 and higher education to their appropriated FY08-09 levels. In that case, K-12 and higher education will take a proportionate reduction against the appropriated base. The federal legislation states the monies are to be first used to mitigate the expected tuition increases due to the cuts in state support for higher education. The Governor will determine whether any of the remaining 18.2% share of the state's SFSF money will be available for capital projects.

Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer, briefed the Commission on the state budget. After figure setting, the expectation is the Joint Budget Committee will move forward with the \$50-plus million higher education reduction for FY09-10. With little specificity available at this time

regarding the budget, figure setting and the Long Bill, Ms. Lindner offered to keep the Commissioners updated during the process via email.

Report on the Status of Colorado State University-Global (CSU-G) Campus Compliance – Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, presented an update on the CSU-G degree program review. Dr. Tony Frank, Interim President of CSU, expressed regret to Executive Director Skaggs that documentation required by the Commission's action at the November 13, 2008 Commission meeting had not been received by the department in a timely fashion. Dr. Russ Meyer, Provost of the CSU System, requested an extension. The Commission agreed to a May 1, 2009 deadline with the understanding that documentation on the undergraduate degree programs at CSU-Pueblo will be submitted to DHE by March 20, 2009. The Commission will review these items at its April 3, 2009 meeting. CSU-Ft. Collins will submit the graduate degree programs to the department by April 21, 2009, for review at the May 1, 2009 Commission meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.