

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting

Old Supreme Court Chambers, State Capitol, May 5, 2009

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

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

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and unanimously passed.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director David Skaggs informed the Commission about the preliminary steps the Department of Higher Education (DHE) is taking in anticipation of launching a Master Planning effort for Higher Education in Colorado. This effort would begin with a one-day summit involving trustees and regents, CEOs, commissioners, legislators, governor's staff, business leaders and foundation leaders. The goal is to have a plan completed by December 2010 so that it can be used as a basis for any statutory changes in the 2011 session of the General Assembly. This planning effort will encompass the recently completed review of the College Opportunity Fund; legislation and the Department's work with the Department of Education (CDE) on P-20 alignment; and the need to devise a measure of access and affordability which can be factored into tuition and financial aid decisions.

Public Comment: Mr. George Walker of Denver spoke to the Commission about the importance of increased funding for higher education, especially during the economic recession.

INFORMATION ITEMS

SB212 Update: Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Office, reported on the Department's recent activities under Senate Bill 212, the Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act. In a meeting on April 27, 2009, DHE staff and Colorado Department of Education staff agreed to the components of a description of post-secondary and work force readiness. Staff will present a working draft of this description for approval by CCHE and the State Board of Education at their joint meeting on June 30, 2009.

Legislation Update for 2009 General Assembly: John Karakoulakis, Director of Legislative Affairs, updated the Commission on legislative action taken since the April 3, 2009 Commission meeting. HB1295, which permits Metropolitan State college of Denver to offer master's degree programs, was signed by Governor Ritter on May 5, 2009. HB1369, newly introduced, deals with transparency in leadership searches by institutions of higher education. SB45 concerning transferability of academic credits between two- and four- year institutions was defeated in the Senate. SB295, the higher education accessibility bill, has substantially changed since it was introduced and no longer contains flexibility on tuition or financial aid by the governing boards. HB1362, which allowed community and state colleges the option of going to local districts and

creating a tax base, died in the Senate and was then amended to SB295. Joint Resolution 1013, which would have established a committee to study the consolidation of DHE and CDE, was postponed indefinitely.

Budget Update: Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer, reported to the Commission that the Long Appropriations Bill for FY 2009-10 has been delivered to the Governor for his signature. The bill reduces state funding to higher education by approximately \$150 million, but avoids the larger \$452 million cut that had been considered by the Legislature. The smaller cut means that the state will meet the maintenance of effort requirement of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), and the cut to higher education will be backfilled with the ARRA's State Fiscal Stabilization Funds (SFSF). Ms. Lindner noted a correction to the printed agenda item. The item states that the SFSF cannot be used to backfill financial aid. Further review of the guidelines revealed that these funds *can* be used for institutional aid.

Andrew Carlson, Budget Director, informed the Commission that the Long Bill has a tuition footnote that allows every institution's governing board to raise tuition rates by 9.0 percent. In the event that reductions in funding from the stipends and fee-for-service contracts with higher education institutions exceed 9.0 percent of the appropriation for stipends and fee-for-service contracts in H.B. 08-1375, the institutions of higher education shall be allowed to increase tuition above the 9.0 percent limit to the amount necessary to backfill the loss of funds, subject to the approval of the institution's respective governing board. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any increases in spending authority necessary to cover the backfill of lost stipends and fee-for-service contracts will be addressed through a supplemental in the 2010 session. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the institutions may increase all graduate and nonresident tuition rates to reflect market conditions and that any additional spending authority necessary to cover graduate and nonresident tuition rate increase be addressed through a supplemental appropriation during the 2010 session.

ACTION ITEMS

Chairman Polsfut brought forth an item regarding the report given to the Commission earlier in the day on the College Opportunity fund (COF). Executive Director Skaggs had asked the Commission to take action to submit the COF Report to the Senate and House Education Committees and then to the Joint Budget Committee.

Commissioner Plachy moved to submit the report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

Colorado Christian University (CCU) Performance Contract: John Karakoulakis presented a negotiated contract between CCU and the Department. This contract is essentially the same as the contracts with Regis University and the University of Denver.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to accept the contract. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed with Commissioner Plachy abstaining.

FY 2010 COF Eligibility for Off-Campus Programs: Matt McKeever, Extended Studies Director, presented an item requesting approval of COF eligibility for off-campus degree programs at Colorado's four-year institutions in FY2009-2010. The programs have each been

approved by the respective institution's academic process. Most programs are degree completion programs for non-traditional students. Two new programs in the request are a baccalaureate degree in Business Administration with emphasis in Health Care Administration at Adams State College and the Nursing Degree completion program offered by Metropolitan State College of Denver.

Commissioner Plachy moved to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brake and unanimously passed.

Colorado State University-Pueblo Proposal To Offer A Baccalaureate Degree In Applied Social Sciences By CSU-Global: Dr. Julie Carnahan presented this item for approval.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the baccalaureate degree program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed with Commissioner Plachy abstaining.

Colorado State University-Pueblo Proposal To Offer A Baccalaureate Degree in Organizational Leadership By CSU-Global: Dr. Julie Carnahan presented this item for approval.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the baccalaureate degree program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed with Commissioner Plachy abstaining.

Colorado State University-Pueblo Proposal To Offer A Baccalaureate Degree In Business Management By CSU-Global: Dr. Julie Carnahan presented this item for approval.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the baccalaureate degree program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed with Commissioner Plachy abstaining.

Colorado State University-Pueblo Proposal To Offer A Baccalaureate Degree In Public Management By CSU-Global: Dr. Julie Carnahan presented this item for approval.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the baccalaureate degree program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed with Commissioner Plachy abstaining.

Colorado State University Proposal To Offer A Master's Degree In Organizational Leadership By CSU-Global: Dr. Julie Carnahan presented this item for approval.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the master degree program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed with Commissioner Plachy abstaining.

Colorado State University Proposal To Offer A Master's Degree In Management By CSU-Global: Dr. Julie Carnahan presented this item for approval.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the master degree program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed with Commissioner Plachy abstaining.

Colorado State University Proposal To Offer A Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning by CSU-Global: Dr. Julie Carnahan presented this item for approval.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the master degree program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed with Commissioner Plachy abstaining.

Adams State College Proposal To Offer A Masters Degree In Business Administration: Dr. Julie Carnahan presented this item for approval.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the master degree program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevinson and unanimously passed.

Commissioner Scott moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 pm.