

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Community College of Denver
February 5, 2010**

Vice Chairman Hereford Percy called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

Commissioners James Polsfut, Hereford Percy, Larry Beckner, Jill Brake, Patricia Pacey, Happy Haynes, Dave Edwards, BJ Scott and Regina Rodriguez were in attendance. Commissioners Greg Stevinson, and Michael Plachy attended via conference call. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Representative Nancy Todd, Dr. Alan Lamborn, Toni Larson, JulieMarie Shepherd, Bill Mansheim and Donna Theimer. Legislative Education Committee members Senator Keith King and Representative Carole Murray attended as well.

Commissioner Beckner moved to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2010 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and unanimously passed.

Dr. Steven Jordan, President of Metropolitan State College of Denver MSCD), welcomed the Commission. Dr. Jordan noted the challenges that all three campuses at the Auraria Higher Education Center are facing, including lack of facility space, conference rooms being used to accommodate classrooms and the expense of housing classrooms off-campus, in rented space downtown. Dr. Jordan also reported that the Washington D. C. based group, Excellentia in Education, profiled MSCD as one of four emerging Hispanic serving institutions in the nation. He also reported that the first year retention rate at MSCD has risen from 58% to 68%. This number has been helped by a pilot program called First Year Success Program.

ACTION ITEM

2010 Legislation Impacting Higher Education – John Karakoulakis, Director of Legislative Affairs, described for the Commission several pieces of legislation that impact higher education.

- 1) SB-108 – Higher Ed Core Courses. Senator Keith King, one of the bill's sponsors, explained that the bill would allow non-public institutions of higher education to choose to participate in gtPathways core course program, allow core course credits to transfer in statewide agreements and allow CCHE to set a fee to reflect the cost of the reviews. Dr. Alan Lamborn, CCHE Advisory Committee academic affairs representative, noted that both GE25 and Academic Council believe the bill is premature and have concerns about quality control for private institutions. They also are concerned that the expansion will undermine their ability to complete work on statewide transfer agreements. Dr. Toni Larson, CCHE Advisory Committee private institution representative, noted that Colorado College, Regis University and the University of Denver remain neutral on the bill. The Department is monitoring the bill. Commissioner Haynes moved that the CCHE monitor the bill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and passed unanimously.
- 2) HB-1208 – Higher Education Statewide Transfer Agreements. This bill would require that CCHE, working with institutions, complete at least 14 transfer agreements by 2016. Representatives Nancy Todd and Carole Murray explained that four agreements have already been completed and several more are in process. They highlighted the bill's

purpose in ensuring a seamless transition from community college to baccalaureate programs at four year institutions. Dr Nancy McCallin, President of the Colorado Community College System (CCCS), Geri Anderson, Provost of CCCS and Dr. Linda Bowman, President of Community College of Aurora and Interim President of Arapahoe Community College were present to voice their support of the bill. Kathleen Bollard, Associate Vice President and Academic Affairs Officer at the University of Colorado System and Kirsten Castleman, Senior Director for State Relations at University of Colorado System also voiced their support. Donna Theimer, CCHE Advisory Committee faculty representative expressed her support for the bill. The Department supports the bill, contingent upon financial resources being available to carry out the necessary activities under the legislation. Commissioner Beckner moved to support the bill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevinson and passed unanimously.

- 3) SB-088 – Two-Year College Degree Designation. This bill would allow community colleges, local district colleges, Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College to offer academic designations with their two year degree programs. The CCCS Board or the Boards of the local district colleges as well as CCCS would approve the program designations. Dr. Geri Anderson and Dr. Linda Bowman further explained that this bill gives students the opportunity to commit to a degree pathway and know they are taking the right courses, as well as allowing the institutions to streamline some of their course offerings. Kathleen Bollard and Kirsten Castleman of CU said they are discussing with CCCS their concerns about the bill having unintended consequences for students planning to transfer into four year degree programs if the CCCS degree requirements don't align with transfer agreements coming into place. CU will take a position based on those discussions. The Department is monitoring this bill. Commissioner Scott moved to monitor the bill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and passed unanimously.
- 4) SB-079 – Authority to Offer Additional Programs to Mesa State College (MSC). This bill would broaden MSC's role and mission, specifically in their graduate degree level programs. The bill would strike the existing language that limits MSC to offering 'specialized programs', thus allowing MSC to offer more graduate programs in liberal arts and sciences as well as in technical degree programs. MCS President, Tim Foster, spoke in favor of the bill. Director Munn explained the Department's opposition to the bill, noting that the Department cannot support any bill with a systemic impact on higher education while the Department is engaged in a strategic planning process. He emphasized that the Department's opposition is not based on the substance of the bill, but rather the timing of it. Advisor Lamborn said that Academic Council agreed with Director Munn regarding the timing. President Foster noted that the conditions at MSC driving this bill will still exist when the strategic planning process is finished. Kathleen Bollard and Kirsten Castleman expressed their concern about role and mission creep, but will not be lobbying legislators in opposition to the bill. Commissioners Stevinson and Pacey, while concerned about mission creep, recognized the unique situation on the Western Slope. Commissioner Beckner moved to support the bill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevinson and passed unanimously.

- 5) SB-101 – Colorado Mountain College (CMC) to Offer Baccalaureate Degrees. This bill would authorize CMC to offer four-year baccalaureate degrees in addition to its junior college offerings. New degree programs would be based on the needs of the local community and would be approved by the college’s Board of Trustees. Mr. Wes Duran, a member of that Board, told the Commission that the proposed baccalaureate programs would not be mission creep but rather filling a vacuum in CMC’s communities. He noted also that this bill does not seek additional funding for CMC, though there could be small, incremental costs in the future associated with new programs. CMC Vice President for Operations and innovative Strategies, Lin Stickler, assured the Commission that CMC is not seeking to circumvent the strategic planning process. And John Giardino, CMC lobbyist, pointed out that SB-101 has strong bipartisan support in both chambers. Director Munn reiterated that the strategic planning process just underway will look at the entire higher education system and the Department is concerned about the timing of this bill, given that process. Commissioner Pacey questioned if Department staff had reviewed the academic programs, criteria for the four year programs and funding issues. VP Sticker responded that this legislation does not yet specify 4-year programs, it merely allows them, and that any programs proposed in the future would have to meet all institutional requirements. Commissioner Scott asked whether CMC might instead partner with an existing four year college. VP Stickler responded that although CMC currently has partnerships with Mesa State College (in elementary education) and the University of Colorado (a master’s program in psychology), such partnerships present their own challenges. Kathleen Bollard and Kirsten Castleman of CU expressed their concern about role and mission creep, but will not be lobbying legislators against the bill. Dr. Alan Lamborn expressed the concerns of Academic Council regarding change in mission, the timing of the bill and required resources. Academic Council also is concerned about language in the bill that is different than the language for Adams State and Mesa State. Commissioner Percy reported that he had met with bankers from both Summit County and the Vail Valley and that he believes the communities support the bill. Commissioner Stevinson suggested that a bill that significantly changes an institution’s mission requires more study. Bill Mansheim, CCHE Advisory Committee’s Chief Financial Officer representative, expressed his concern about accreditation and about having other community colleges then seeking to offer baccalaureate degrees. Commission Percy moved to monitor the bill. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner. The motion did not pass. Commissioner Stevinson moved to oppose the bill, Commission Pacey seconded the motion. The motion did not carry. The Commission did not take a position on this bill.

Chairman Polsfut requested Director Munn and John Karakoulakis relay the Commission’s positions on these bills directly to the committees involved.

Public Comments: Mr. George Walker of Denver spoke to the Commission about the situation in higher education of “haves and have nots” and about the lack of diversity among the Higher Education Strategic Plan committee members.

Executive Director’s Report: Executive Director Rico Munn addressed Mr. Walker’s concerns about diversity by explaining the make-up of the steering group and subcommittees. JulieMarie

Shepherd, CCHE Advisory Committee student representative, urged Director Munn to include students in the planning process. Director Munn updated the Commission on the progress of the strategic planning process.

CONSENT ITEMS

Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Improvement Program List - The revised Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program list for the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs covering FY2010-11 through FY2011-12 contains three capital construction projects from the Board of Regents. The two-year plan was approved but not prioritized by the Board of Regents before submission. The total cash cost of the two-year list shows approximately \$21.5 million will be provided by the UCCS through institutional sources or federal sources.

Revisions to Admission Standards Policy - In the 2009 legislative session, Colorado State University - Global Campus (CSU-GC) received statutory approval to operate and its role and mission were defined as “a baccalaureate and graduate online university with the mission in Colorado of offering upper division baccalaureate degree-completion programs for nontraditional students. . .” Academic Affairs Policy Part F: Admission Standards Policy provides the minimum standards needed for transfer student admission to Colorado’s four year institutions. The change to statute requires the inclusion of CSU-GC in this policy.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the consent items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

ACTION ITEMS

Proposed Performance Contract Review Process – Executive Director Rico Munn presented this item based on the Commission decision to adopt a workplan for 2010 to better define and accomplish its policy goals. This item suggests a process and a timeline for reviewing performance contracts with the institutions of higher education.

Commissioner Edwards moved to adopt the performance contract review process. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner and unanimously passed.

Proposed Goals for Achievement Gap Workplan – Executive Director Rico Munn presented this item for the Commission to have a process for addressing the state’s achievement gap in higher education. The item suggests goals and a timeline for the process.

Commissioner Haynes moved to adopt the goals and timelines for the process addressing the achievement gap. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner and unanimously passed.

Proposed Goals for Institutional Efficiencies Workplan – Executive Director Rico Munn praised Colorado’s efficient and productive higher education system, but noted that efficiency is an ongoing process and not a static destination. The Commission has decided to review ways that Colorado’s institutions can share and develop best practices to streamline processes and increase efficiencies. The item proposes goals and a timeline for the process.

Commissioner Hayes and Advisor Lamborn suggested the use of the words “institutional innovations” to replace “institutional efficiencies.”

Commissioner Beckner moved to adopt the goals, the timeline and the replacement of the word efficiencies with innovations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2009-2010 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Improving Teacher Quality State Grants – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, informed the Commission that the Department annually receives approximately \$850,000 from the U.S. Department of Education under NCLB and distributes the funds to institutions of higher education who partner with local school districts to improve the quality of teachers and principals, all toward the goal of improving student achievement. The report details the five grants the Department awarded in 2009-2010. The Department conducts brief audits every four months and requires a final financial and performance report at the end of the grant period.

2009 Legislative Report On Remedial Education – Dr. Jason Presley, Director of Information and Research, presented the Department’s annual report on students taking basic skills courses at Colorado’s public higher education institutions. The report will be submitted to the Education Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Joint Budget Committee, and the Colorado Department of Education and distributed to each Colorado public school district superintendent. Dr. Presley noted that the Department is working with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) on a datasharing effort that will enable the DHE next year to provide to CDE a distinct list of students requiring remediation, which will assist local school districts in better addressing their student needs.

Commissioner Beckner moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.