

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
Community College of Denver  
January 8, 2010**

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, Michael Plachy, BJ Scott and Regina Rodriguez were in attendance. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Representative Randy Fischer, Dr. Alan Lamborn, Toni Larson, JulieMarie Shepherd and Donna Theimer. Advisory Committee members Senator Gail Schwartz, Darryl Bonds and Bill Mansheim attended via teleconference.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and unanimously passed.

Dr. Diana Doyle, Vice President of Learning and Student Affairs at the Community College of Denver, welcomed the Commission and gave a brief overview of the campus. Of note was the College moving their science labs, along with the science labs for Metropolitan State College of Denver and the University of Colorado-Denver, into the newly opened Science Center.

**Advisory Committee Report:** Student Representative JulieMarie Shepard informed the Commission of a rally in early March that the Associated Students of Colorado will be holding at the Capitol to bring attention to proposed budget cuts for higher education institutions.

Senator Gail Schwartz, Advisory Committee member, assured the Commission that when the time comes to address the budget, she will champion higher education and will make herself available legislatively.

**Executive Director's Report:** Executive Director Rico Munn updated the Commission on the 2010 timeline for the co-convened SB-212 (CAP4K) meetings. These meetings will be held around the state, starting January 20, 2010 through the end of March. Commissioners were invited to attend meetings held in their areas.

Executive Director Munn informed the Commission of Diane Lindner's resignation and introduced Mark Cavanaugh. Mr. Cavanaugh will be joining the department's staff as the Chief Financial Officer.

Executive Director Munn also assured the Commission that even with the Governor's recent announcement that he will not be seeking re-election, the strategic planning process will move forward.

**Public Comments:** Mr. George Walker of Denver spoke to the Commission about the lack of diversity in higher education and in committees formed to address higher education issues, most notably, the lack of Hispanic representation. Mr. Walker also expressed his concerns about the large ethnic gap in college attainment and the importance of funding for higher education.

Mr. Antonio Braveheart, a student at the Community College of Denver, introduced himself to the Commission as the State Student Advisory Council Representative and Legislative Liaison.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**FY 2010–2011 Student Budget Parameters** – Celina Duran, Financial Aid Administrator, presented the Commission with proposed guidelines for student financial aid. Each year, the Commission approves parameters for student living expenses for use by institutions in determining aid. These budget parameters include tuition and fees, books, supplies, transportation, personal expenses, room and board and other expenses.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the 2010-2011 Student Budget Parameters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

**State Guaranteed General Education Courses, Review Cycle VII, Round II** – Vicki Leal, Academic Policy Officer, presented to the Commission recommendations for courses to be included in the general education guaranteed statewide transfer program, known in Colorado as gtPathways. The courses were nominated by institutions, reviewed by faculty and recommended for gtPathways during review Cycle VII, Round II (November 6, 2009). The recommendations represent the outcome of faculty consideration of 62 course nominations for approval and placement into the gtPathways program effective August 2010. This will bring the total number of courses in the gtPathways curriculum to 1,168.

Commissioner Brake moved to approve the recommended courses. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2008 Financial Aid Policy On Access And Retention Rates By Race/Ethnicity** – Dr. Jason Presley, Director of Information and Research, prepared this item in response to the Commission's inquiry at the December 3, 2009 meeting about the impact, if any, of the new financial aid policy implemented in 2008 on access and retention rates by race/ethnicity. To summarize, the new policy shows higher numbers of students receiving financial aid and higher numbers of students returning the following year after they receive aid. These retention rates are higher across every single race/ethnicity category. Dr. Presley mentioned the limitations of only having one year's worth of data under the new financial aid policy.

**FY 2009 Report On Teacher Education To General Assembly** - Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, presented the report to the Commission. Highlights of the report include: overall enrollment in teacher preparation programs has not changed significantly from last year; undergraduate enrollment has increased while post-baccalaureate and graduate enrollment has decreased from previous years; the decrease in post-baccalaureate and graduate enrollment may be due to the economic downturn. Enrollment of students thirty-five years of age and older also dropped significantly, which is in line with the

decrease in enrollment for post-baccalaureate and graduate students. Also of note, enrollment in high need content areas has increased.

**Degree Authorization Act – Augustine Institute** – Heather Delange, Degree Authorization Officer, presented this item to the Commission as a follow up to an action item from the September 2005 regular meeting of the CCHE. This item corrects a minor oversight by the Department of Higher Education (DHE) and the Augustine Institute regarding the status of Augustine Institute’s conditional approval for authorization to offer degrees in Colorado. The clarifies that the Department is in receipt of a needed copy of the letter of determination for Augustine Institute’s tax exempt status from the Secretary of State. No action is necessary by the Commission.

**Legislative Update** – John Karakoulakis, Director of Legislative Affairs, informed the Commission that the General Assembly would go into session on January 13, 2010.

He described anticipated bills that would affect higher education.

Senator Keith King will introduce a bill, which deals with transferability of private college credit courses to the gtPathways program. Advisory members Lamborn and Larson both suggested there would be potential opposition to private universities and private colleges having the existing faculty review process—which is run by faculty from the state universities—vetting their courses.

The Community College System will be introducing a bill that allows for areas of concentration (or emphasis) for their associates degrees.

The Department has a bill, sponsored by Representative Karen Middleton, which deals with the Fort Lewis Native American tuition waiver. The bill would limit the reimbursement that the state provides to Fort Lewis College for out-of-state Native American students to the cost of instruction. Importantly, the bill would not impact Native American students, who would still attend Fort Lewis College at no charge. Ed Bowditch, representing Fort Lewis College, explained the schools opposition to the bill.

Last year there was fire safety bill that was controversial. It required the school to run certain fire safety drills. The bill will be reintroduced in a different form this session, although the specifics are not known and may be part of the higher education flexibility bill.

Colorado Mountain College plans to introduce legislation to allow the college to offer four year degrees.

Representative Fischer added that he and Senator Bob Bacon have agreed to carry a bill for the Associated Students of Colorado State University that would give them a voting membership on the Board of Governors for Colorado State University.

**Budget Update** – Andrew Carlson, Budget and Financial Aid Director, presented for discussion purposes only a spreadsheet showing different ways of allocating anticipated budget reductions

in FY10-11 and FY11-12. He presented four options per year and compared them to the status quo. Mr. Carlson explained that the document was created in response to questions the Department received after the Governor presented his recommendations for FY10-11 budget reductions. Mr. Carlson described the four options and reiterated that the document was meant for discussion only.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.