Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting Red Rocks Community College March 5, 2010

Chairman James Polsfut called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

Commissioners James Polsfut, Hereford Percy, Michael Plachy, Larry Beckner, Jill Brake, Happy Haynes, Dave Edwards, BJ Scott and Regina Rodriguez were in attendance. Commissioner Greg Stevinson attended via conference call. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Representative Nancy Todd, Dr. Alan Lamborn, Toni Larson, and Donna Theimer. Advisory Committee member JulieMarie Shepherd attended via teleconference.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2010 meeting, amended to reflect Commissioner BJ Scott attended the meeting in person not via conference call. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Plachy and unanimously passed.

Dr. Michele Haney, President of Red Rocks Community College, welcomed the Commission to the campus. Dr. Haney informed the Commission that Red Rocks Community College is celebrating their 40th anniversary and enrollment is up 20 percent. The school is the largest transferring institution to the Colorado School of Mines. She also noted that among other high quality programs, Red Rocks Community College offers an OSHA program that is second only to Texas A&M in the nation.

Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Edwards, as a new Commissioner, has been on site visits to all but one of the primary college and university campuses in his district as well as visits to CSU-Pueblo and CU-Boulder. He said he plans to visit Lamar Community College later in the month.

Executive Director's Report: Executive Director Rico Munn reported that the higher education strategic planning initiative is moving quickly and accomplishing a great deal of work. Commissioners Brake, Stevinson, Percy, Scott and Polsfut are attending the steering group and subcommittee meetings.

Director Munn introduced the Department's new Deputy Director, Dr. Kim Poast, to the Commission.

Public Comments: Mr. George Walker of Denver spoke to the Commission on the importance of funding for higher education.

COMMISSION WORKPLAN ITEMS

Overview of Performance Contracts - Vicki Leal, Academic Policy Officer, presented a report on institutional compliance with their respective performance contracts and a description of the institutions' current and future performance contract requirements. She also provided to the Commission a list of the types of questions to be utilized by staff to analyze the contracts in the larger context of the Commissioner Workplan.

Overview of Achievement Gap - Vicki Leal presented the Commission with goals for addressing the achievement gap in Colorado and a gap analysis framework that will be conducted in order to analyze possible factors that contribute to the achievement gap. The framework will provide for an analysis of expansive and restrictive statutes, policies and practices that either contribute to sustaining the gap as it currently exists; or, facilitate the reduction in educational disparities between Colorado's racial majority and minority populations.

CONSENT ITEMS

Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Improvement Program List –Mesa State College – Dan Krug, Financial and Compliance Officer, prepared this item for approval

Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Improvement Program List – Colorado Community College System - Dan Krug prepared this item for approval

Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Improvement Program List – University of Colorado-Denver - Dan Krug prepared this item for approval

Volume Cap Credit Waiver For Physical Education Teacher Program at the University of Northern Colorado - Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, prepared this item for approval.

Approval Of Secondary Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation Program at the University of Northern Colorado - Dr. Ian Macgillivray prepared this item for approval.

Approval Of M.A.T. Education With Special Education Generalist Endorsement at Metropolitan State College of Denver - Dr. Ian Macgillivray prepared this item for approval.

Proposal to Offer a Doctor of Nursing Practice Degree at the University Of Northern Colorado – Margot Plotz, Academic Affairs Officer, prepared this item for approval.

Proposal to Offer a Master of Science and a Doctor of Bioengineering Degree at the University Of Colorado-Denver - Margot Plotz prepared this item for approval.

Commissioner Brake moved to approve the consent items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. The motion passed by a vote of nine to one.

ACTION ITEMS

Consideration of Higher Education Strategic Planning (HESP) Recommendation – Rico Munn, Executive Director, presented the Commission with a short term budget resolution from the HESP Steering Group. The Steering Group was asked by the Commission, the Governor and the Legislature to provide short term recommendations to address funding of higher education as the Federal recovery monies decrease over the next two fiscal years. After a significant amount of work, the HESP sustainability subcommittee sent two options to the Steering Group for consideration. One option was debated and rejected; the other option became the <u>Student Access Tuition Model</u>. Per the Commission's request, staff drafted a resolution for consideration by the Commission. The draft Resolution of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education regarding the "Student Access Tuition Model" was also sent to the Governor and the Legislature.

Dr. Nancy McCallin, President of the Colorado Community College System and Bill Scoggins, President of the Colorado School of Mines, testified before the Commission and summarized a March 3, 2010 letter from the 12 chief executive officers of the public institutions. In response the Commission amended the resolution to read:

Be it further resolved, that the Higher Education Strategic Plan, the Governor's office, and the General Assembly consider the issues raised by the 12 CEOs of Colorado's public institutions of higher education in its March 3, 2010 letter related to the Higher Education Strategic Plan's March 5, 2010 "Student Access Tuition Model" proposal.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the resolution as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

Degree Authorization Act – **Wellington University** – Heather Delange, Degree Authorization Officer, presented this item to the Commission recommending probationary authorization for Wellington University to operate in Colorado as a private, for-profit degree granting institution. With CCHE approval, the institution will proceed with seeking accreditation from The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. As long as the institution demonstrates to the Department that it is continuously seeking and making satisfactory progress toward full accreditation, probationary authorization allows the institution to enroll students, offer instruction, graduate students and award degrees. Institutions given probationary authorization may not enroll students until the accreditation process has begun and been verified to the Department.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the probationary authorization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brake and unanimously passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2010 Legislation Impacting Higher Education– John Karakoulakis, Director of Legislative Affairs, updated the Commission on the SB-079 Concerning Authority at Mesa State College to

Offer Additional Programs and SB-101 Concerning Colorado Mountain College to Offer Baccalaureate Degrees. Both bills were amended to address the Department of Higher Education's concerns and the Department withdrew its opposition.

FY 10-11 JBC Figure Setting For Higher Education – Andrew Carlson, Budget and Financial Aid Director, gave the Commission an overview of the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) figure setting hearing for the Department of Higher Education's FY10-11 budget that was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. The purpose of the hearing is to set the level of funding for each line item in the higher education budget. The JBC either accepts recommendations from the Governor's and/or CCHE's budget request, accepts new recommendations from JBC staff or the JBC members create their own recommendations. The JBC approved the Governor's budget request in most major request areas, including; Need Based Grants, Governing Board Allocations, Local District Junior College Allocations, and the Tuition Footnote.

The JBC approved different recommendations than the Governor's budget request in several areas. First, the JBC approved continuation funding for Work Study, which means it will have to find \$1.1 million from another source to transfer to the waiver program for Ft. Lewis College. Second, the \$500,000 level of funding for the Teach Colorado Grant will be eliminated. Third, the JBC considered one piece of legislation requiring a transfer of \$45.2 million from CollegeInvest's Early Achievers Scholarship Trust Fund to the General Fund, part of which would be used to prevent cuts to need-based grants. The members present indicated their support for the proposed legislation. Finally, the JBC considered Legislative Council's forecast for higher education enrollment and revenue for FY09-10 and FY10-11. The forecast estimates that statewide enrollment will grow by 14,098 FTE students or a rate of 8.6% in FY09-10. In FY10-11, enrollment growth is expected to slow to 2.6% or 4,572 FTE. Tuition revenue is expected to increase by 14.3 percent in FY09-10 and by 9.7% in FY10-11.

Commissioner Rodriguez moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.