

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
State Capitol, Old Supreme Court Chambers
April 1, 2011

Chairman Polsfut called the meeting to order at 1:10pm.

Chairman Jim Polsfut, Vice Chairman Hereford Percy, Commissioners Jill Brake, Dave Edwards, Richard Kaufman, Patty Pacey and BJ Scott were in attendance. Commissioner Larry Beckner attended via conference call. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Dr. Toni Larson, Dr. Abe Harraf, Senator Evie Hudak, Senator Nancy Spence and Representative Nancy Todd. Advisory Committee members Michael Mincic and Ruth Annette Carter participated by conference call.

Commissioner Brake moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Percy and passed unanimously.

Steve Jordan, President of Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD), gave an overview of his campus. Dr. Jordan reported that the Board of Trustees created a dashboard of key indicators for retention and graduation during their fall retreat. The dashboard shows that approximately 97% of the students enrolled at MSCD are Colorado students and 91% of those students are from the seven county metro area. Dr. Jordan also reported that the effort to increase full time equivalent (FTE) to head count ratio has been successful. FTEs are now growing faster than the head count at MSCD.

Overall enrollment has grown by 4,000 students since 2005. Students of color as a percent of overall population at MSCD have gone from 24% to 29%. For next fall, first-time Hispanic student applications are up 45% and acceptances from Hispanic students are up 42%. The biggest growth area continues to be among students twenty-five years and older. One third of MSCD's students are first generation.

MSCD is piloting a first year success program, in which a class of students takes two paired courses. The class size is limited to twenty students and gives a sense of place for students in an urban institution. The instructors collaborate on the assessment of the students. They generally pair English Composition with History, Political Science, and Sociology. This allows students who are in an English Composition class to write about what they are learning in the social sciences class. For two consecutive years, with pilots of 600 students, MSCD has seen an eighty percent retention rate among these students.

MSCD is constructing a new Student Success Building that will open in 2012. The second floor is dedicated exclusively to the first year success program. It will be equipped with twelve classrooms and support services for freshmen. Every first time freshman will be required to be a part of the success program. With this program in place, the College anticipates a 75% retention rate. MSCD has increased retention from 58% to 68% to date. This project is fully funded by the students through a student fee.

President Jordan also reported that last February, the MSCD board adopted a resolution to examine every element of the existing name. This work is still in progress.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, DHE Executive Director, reported that the General Assembly has not yet completed the budget process for public institutions of higher education. There is a proposed 15% (\$340,000) reduction to the Department of Higher Education's budget. DHE staff are working with members of the General Assembly to reconsider the reduction to the Department budget, as DHE is undertaking both the master planning process and performance contracts process in the next fiscal year. A number of college and university presidents have offered to support this effort to restore the funding.

CONSENT ITEMS

Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Unit at Colorado College

Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Unit at Regis University's Regis College, Proposal to Offer a Master of Arts Degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership at the University of Northern Colorado

Proposal to Offer a Master of Arts Degree in Sports Coaching at the University of Northern Colorado

State Guaranteed General Education (gtPathways) Courses

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

ACTION ITEMS

Revisions to the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) Policy - Margot Plotz, WICHE Certifying Officer, presented an update on revisions to the WICHE Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) Policy. This agenda item recommends a policy change to add two in-region institutions to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP). The PSEP is designed to allow Colorado residents to attend programs in an optometry school at participating WICHE institutions. Staff recommended approving the changes to the WICHE PSEP as in the attached Colorado Commission on Higher Education, Student Services Policies, Section VI, Part E.

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

Statewide Articulation Agreements – Dr. Cheryl Lovell, Chief Academic Officer, presented an item on Statewide Articulation Agreements. The item recommends five statewide articulation agreements in History, Math, Psychology-BA, Psychology-BS, and Spanish. During the last two years, members of the GE Council met monthly to discuss potential statewide articulation agreements. The council identified several high demand academic majors that appeared suitable for statewide transfer agreements. Faculty representatives have been involved in these monthly

discussions, as well as through the biannual Faculty-to-Faculty conferences. Staff recommended approving the five articulation agreements, bringing the total number of agreements to seven. Statute requires that 14 articulation agreements be completed by 2016.

Commissioner Brake moved to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Percy and unanimously passed.

Degree Authorization Act: Initial Authorization for Ashford University - Heather DeLange, Degree Authorization Act Officer, presented this item on the Probationary Authorization for Ashford University to operate in Colorado. Department staff contracted with an external evaluation team to conduct a paper review of Ashford University. The results of the review favor Ashford University's beginning operation in Colorado. However, DHE staff have been informed that, at this time, Ashford University only plans to operate a call center from its Colorado location.

Bridgepoint Education, Inc., the parent company of Ashford University, intends to lease 151,331 square feet of real estate at 1515 Arapahoe Street in Downtown Denver to house its Denver Operations Call Center. Ashford University's main campus is located in Clinton, Iowa and it holds accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The University offers degree programs from the Associates level to the Masters level. Ms. DeLange recommended that the Commission approve Probationary Authorization for Ashford University. Included in the recommendation is a requirement that Ashford University notify department staff prior to beginning any operational or instructional activities in Colorado that are beyond the scope of the information presented for this initial authorization.

Vice Chairman Percy moved to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and passed by a vote of six to one.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Legislative Update – Chad Marturano, Director of Legislative Affairs, reported that House Bill 1155, which allows the Lt. Governor to serve concurrently as the Executive Director of the Department of Higher Education, had passed both houses. Senate Bill 52 and Senate Bill 126 are currently awaiting a second reading on the Senate floor. Senate Bill 204 passed. This bill would enable Colorado State University–Pueblo to change its role and mission to allow it to accommodate changes to one of its degree programs. It would also allow the University of Colorado–Colorado Springs to add “specialized research university” to its role and mission.

Budget Update – Mark Cavanaugh, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the budget for higher education is holding at \$519 million dollars for fiscal year 2012. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) staff recommended reducing the budget to \$500 million, but the JBC voted to retain the budget at \$519 million. The JBC took action to remove two full time equivalents (FTEs), \$340,000, which is approximately 15% the Department's budget.

Capital Assets Update – First Quarter 2011 – Dan Krug, Financial and Compliance Analyst, reported on capital assets, specifically:

A. Legislative prioritization and funding of new and continuing capital projects

Due to the continued budget shortfall the Capital Development Committee (CDC) of the General Assembly has recommended funding only nine projects for FY2012, including the expected top two Commission priorities. The JBC approved the state-funded recommendation with a few exceptions. Specifically, the JBC did not include the CDC's #6 and #9 projects.

B. Property transactions at the Auraria Higher Education Center

Legislative sessions determined that no significant approvals were required by the Department, Commission, or General Assembly because no AHEC funds were being expended on the land acquisition and no funds were being acquired by the disposition of land. Therefore the Department had no role to play in the negotiation or approval process.

C. Federal Mineral Lease funding and the Auraria Science Building.

The funding for the AHEC Science Building was secured through the FML COP issuance. It is the understanding of Department staff, the Commission, OSPB, and the CDC that if there is a second issuance of FML COPs, HJR08-1042 would be the starting point to determine which projects receive funding. Department staff briefed Department leadership on this issue and a letter addressed to AHEC community leadership was distributed on March 10 stating that the Department could not approve the requested program plan amendment.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Master Planning Update –Dr. Matt Gianneschi, Deputy Executive Director, presented this item as part of an ongoing conversation about master planning. The master plan process, as adopted by CCHE at its December 2, 2010 meeting, must address the following components:

- The adoption of a comprehensive strategic plan, “The Degree Dividend” (completed on December 2, 2010)
- Narrowing strategic strategies to develop specific institution level plans; and,
- Ongoing evaluation to maintain accountability and address changing conditions.

The following is a revised general timeline for the completion of the Commission's work. This timeline accommodates the timelines articulated in SB 11-052 (as currently amended), though the status of that bill may not be known until June 2011:

- April & May, 2011: At regularly scheduled commission meetings, identify priorities for inclusion in the master plan (note: the current General Assembly session ends May 11). In April, DHE staff will collaborate with campus CEOs to discuss the recommendations

established and recommend policy priorities not otherwise addressed in the HESP report (see addendum for HESP recommendations).

- June & July, 2011: *No Commission Meetings*. Staff will collect information to inform policy priorities established in the HESP and identified by the CCHE. During this time, DHE staff will convene and gather input from various stakeholders.
- August, 2011: Commissioners will consider stakeholder feedback and begin to refine their policy priorities. These policy priorities will be shared with campus constituents, legislators, and higher education governing board members.
- September, 2011: To ensure the timely delivery of performance contracts, DHE staff, in consultation with campus administrators and attorneys, will begin the process of developing a framework for performance contracts that will be executed in 2012.
- October/November, 2011: DHE staff will organize a summit to ensure that campus CEOs, governing board members, and CCHE commissioners have an opportunity to discuss potential master plan policy priorities directly.
- November/December, 2011: CCHE members to discuss preliminary draft of master plan priorities, which will be disseminated to campus colleagues and governing board members for their reaction and comment.
- January, 2012: DHE staff will organize a retreat for CCHE members to discuss and finalize master plan priorities and performance targets. DHE staff will disseminate CCHE proposed master plan to system governing boards for comment (pursuant to the 30-day comment period found in to SB 11-052, as amended).
- February, 2012: CCHE considers comments from governing boards.
- March, 2012: CCHE takes action on its final Master Plan, which will then be delivered to the Colorado General Assembly.
- April-June, 2012: Execution of new performance contracts with Governing Boards. (This proposed timeline is subject to change pursuant to the outcome of SB 11-052 and may be amended as needed to meet the expectations of state laws and to accommodate the needs of system governing boards and institutions.

Vice Chairman Percy moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brake. The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.