# Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting Pickens Technical Institute February 4, 2011

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

Chairman Jim Polsfut, Vice Chairman Hereford Percy, Commissioners Jill Brake, Dave Edwards, Happy Haynes and Regina Rodriquez were in attendance. Commissioners BJ Scott, Patty Pacey, Richard Kaufman and Greg Stevinson attended via conference call. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members, Dr. Abe Harraf, Dr. Toni Larson, Dr. Diana Sirko, Senator Evie Hudak and Senator Rollie Heath. Advisors Ruth Annette Carter, Representative Tom Massey and Representative Don Beezley participated by conference call.

Vice Chairman Percy moved to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2011 minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and passed unanimously.

Dean Stecklein, Executive Director of Pickens Technical College, welcomed the Commissioners and presented a brief video montage of the students currently attending the institution.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

Chairman Polsfut introduced and welcomed Lt. Governor Joe Garcia as the new Executive Director of the Department of Higher Education (awaiting Senate confirmation). Chairman Polsfut also informed the Commission that he and Lt. Governor Joe Garcia testified before the Joint Education Committee about the challenges faced by higher education.

Chairman Polsfut welcomed Senator Heath and Representatives Beezley and Massey to the Advisory Committee. He thanked Representative Nancy Todd for her years of service on the Advisory Committee and her dedication to higher education.

# **COMMISSIONER REPORT**

Vice Chairman Percy reported that he had attended the monthly CEO meeting at the Department of Higher Education.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lt Governor Garcia introduced Dr. Matt Gianneschi, DHE's new Deputy Executive Director, who will be assisting him in his Executive Director role. The Lt. Governor spoke of his and Governor Hickenlooper's commitment to education. He also spoke of some upcoming organizational changes within DHE to address different needs for the state, the higher education institutions and their students.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Frank Waterous, Senior Policy Analyst for The Bell Policy Center, commended Dr. Beth Bean on the Legislative Remedial Education Report she would be presenting to the Commission. He noted the extensive new data this year's report contains.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Programs at Regis College For Professional Studies

Proposal To Offer A Masters Degree In Biomedical Sciences at The University Of Northern Colorado

## 2011-2012 Student Budget Parameters

Vice Chairman Percy moved items A, B, and C for approval. Regarding item B, Commissioner Stevinson asked which other institution offers the Masters Degree in Biomedical Sciences program and whether the new program would lead to duplication. Advisor Abe Harraf responded that Colorado State University-Ft. Collins also offers the program and had sent the University of Northern Colorado a letter of support because CSU cannot meet the current demand for the program, as it is the only one offered in five states. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and passed unanimously.

# **ACTION ITEM**

**Recommended Revisions To CCHE Tuition And Fee Policy From The Student Fee Working Group -** Andrew Carlson, Director of Budget and Financial Aid, presented this item with the recommended revisions to CCHE policy from the Student Fee Working Group. This group was formed, at the request of the Commission, to address the findings of Office of the State Auditor's recent audit of student fees. The CCHE policy revisions address three specific issues that were raised in the audit: lack of clarity in both statute and Commission policy around how fees are classified, categorized, and defined; lack of review/oversight once fees once are established; and the relationship of student benefit to student fees.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the recommended revisions to CCHE policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

# **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**2010 Legislative Report on Remedial Education** – Dr. Beth Bean, Interim Director of Research and Information, presented this report. Dr. Bean noted the inclusion of demographic information about non-traditional and adult students in addition to recent high school graduates, an important new component in this year's report. She

highlighted some of the key findings in the report. Dr. Bean suggested that two points requiring attention by the state are how to reduce remediation rates and needs as students come out of secondary school and how to make this cost effective and efficiently move students quickly from remedial courses into college level courses.

**Legislative Update** – Chad Marturano, Director of Legislative Affairs, brought the Commissioners' attention to several bills pertaining to higher education:

- 1. Senate Bill 11-052, Goals for Higher Education System, sponsored by Sen. Heath and Rep. Massey, would establish statewide goals for the state's higher education system, replacing the current performance contracts with "memorandums of expectations," and mechanisms for funding systems of higher education based upon performance.
- 2. Senate Bill 11-070, Special Education Students Higher Education Transition, sponsored by Sen. Hudak would create a special needs advisory council in DHE.
- 3. Senate Bill 11-100, Sunset Council of Higher Education, sponsored by Sen. Hudak, Sen. Keith King and Rep. Murray would extend the council's existence in statute.
- 4. Senate Bill 11-126, Unsubsidized In-State Tuition, sponsored by Sen. Johnston, Sen. Giron, Rep. Miklosi and Rep. Williams would create another tuition category (in addition to resident and non-resident categories) which would be unsubsidized in-state tuition for undocumented graduates of Colorado high schools.
- 5. House Bill 11-1007, Mesa State College Personnel, sponsored by Sen. Bradford and Rep. Steve King, would give certain Mesa State employees the option of opting out of the state personnel system.
- 6. House Bill 11-1155, Lt. Governor as Head of Principal Department, sponsored by Sen. McNulty, Sen. Pace, Sen. Shaffer and Sen. Kopp would clarify that the Lt. Governor may concurrently serve as the head of a principal department.
- 7. House Bill 11-1168, Equalize Public and Private COF Stipends, sponsored by Sen. Murray and Sen. Spence, would raise the COF stipends for students enrolled at COF eligible private colleges to the full rate of the subsidy.

Senators Heath and Hudak discussed their respective bills with the Commissioners. Lt. Governor Garcia noted that Sen. Heath's Senate Bill 11-052 is consistent with the recommendations that came out of the Higher Education Strategic Plan.

Dr. Toni Larson, representing the private schools, told the Commission that Colorado College, Regis University and the University of Denver do not support House Bill 11-1168.

The Commission suggested reviewing the full document for Senate Bill 11-126 and drafted a statement of support:

To support economic development and under-served graduates at Colorado high schools or GED programs, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education strongly supports the introduction of unsubsidized instate tuition for students who do not have documentation of lawful immigration or nationality status.

Commission members asked Mr. Marturano to share their statement with the Joint Senate and House Education Committees and possibly email it to all members of the General Assembly. They also asked him to forward the statement to the Higher Education Alliance. Sen. Heath suggested that a member of CCHE come before the committee and testify on Senate Bill 11-126.

Commissioner Hayes moved to approve the draft statement of support for Senate Bill 11-126. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Percy and unanimously passed.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

# 2011 CCHE Work Plan / Master Planning – Dr. Kim Poast

Dr. Poast, Special Assistant for Planning and Projects, was unable to attend the meeting. Her item was presented by Inta Morris, Director of Policy Initiatives. The item contained a list of key issues to be addressed by CCHE in 2011, in addition to their ongoing, statutorily required actions and actions necessitated by legislation. The Commissioners identified these issues at the January 7, 2011 CCHE meeting.

- Performance contracts
- Finance policy
- Attainment disparities
- Review of role and mission of institutions and Auraria
- Advocacy
- Legislative education, advocacy and action
- P-20 alignment/Governor's Education Leadership Council
- Increasing engagement of partners including the governing boards and other councils and committees.

Commissioner Haynes suggested adding both remediation and higher education funding to the list.

The Commissioners will meet for a "mini-retreat" on February 14, 2011 and will continue the discussion of the issues on the list.

**Final Performance Contract Review Report Per CCHE Work Plan** – Dr. Cheryl Lovell, presented three sets of documents: the agenda item; the final performance contract summary; and the annual report required by the House and Senate Education Committees.

Dr. Lovell presented the summary findings in three broad themes: pre-performance contract phase; during the performance contract phase; and observations about future accountability systems. Dr. Lovell summarized the lessons learned: goals were achieved:

there was too much duplicated data reporting; data required from institutions overlapped with other institutional accountability systems; and there were no consequences if goals were not met nor rewards for goals met.

**Update on GE Council** – Dr. Cheryl Lovell presented this item as requested by the Commissioners at their January 7, 2011 CCHE meeting. She referred to three documents: the agenda item; the GE Council Transfer and Articulation Agreement Protocol (in draft form); and the Statewide Articulation Agreement Matrix (also in draft form). Dr. Lovell noted that the GE Council met Monday, January 10, 2011 and drafted the Protocol and the Matrix.

The GE Council established a course review system called the GT Pathways in 2001, resulting in over 1,200 courses having been reviewed and deemed transferable in the state. There have been faculty-to-faculty conferences held over many years focused entirely on bringing two-year and four-year faculty together to discuss the courses.

Dr. Lovell invited Dr. Wayne Artis, History Department Co-chair at Pikes Peak Community College, to join her and provide his comments to the Commission. Dr. Artis has been involved with the GE Council since its beginning. Legislation passed and signed into law in 2010 (HB 10-1208), requires that at least 14 statewide articulation agreements be established by July 1, 2016. Four have been approved and the Council reviewed five additional courses on January 10, 2011.

Vice Chairman Percy moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.