

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
State Capitol, Old Supreme Court Chambers  
May 6, 2011

Chairman Polsfut called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

Chairman Jim Polsfut, Vice Chairman Hereford Percy, Commissioners Larry Beckner, Dave Edwards, Happy Haynes, Richard Kaufman, Patty Pacey, Regina Rodriguez and Greg Stevinson were in attendance. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Representative Nancy Todd, Michael Mincic and Ruth Annette Carter. Advisory Committee members Dr. Toni Larson, Dr. Abe Harraf and Julie Marie Shepherd participated by conference call.

Dr. Matt Gianneschi, Deputy Executive Director of the Department of Higher Education, served in the stead of Lt Governor Joseph Garcia, who was unavailable to attend the meeting.

Vice Chairman Percy moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevinson and passed unanimously.

Dr. Linda Bowman, President of the Community College of Aurora, gave an overview of the campus, highlighting the college's "diverse diversity." CCA has a large group of immigrants in attendance and 48 percent of the college's students are first generation. Dr. Bowman noted that 60 percent of CCA students are female and that this is characteristic of community colleges across the nation. Dr. Bowman also highlighted four special programs at the Community College of Aurora: the Colorado Film School; a disaster management program to train first responders—police, fire fighters and EMS; a nursing pathways program with the University of Colorado; and a concurrent enrollment program that both brings high school students to the campus and brings campus teachers to the high schools.

## **CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Chairman Polsfut acknowledged Commissioner Greg Stevinson's eight years of serving on the Colorado Commission of Higher Education, as his second term comes to an end. Chairman Polsfut read a proclamation honoring Commissioner Stevinson and thanked him for his service and commitment to education. Commissioner Stevinson was also presented with a Colorado State Flag, flown at the State Capitol on April 20, 2011, from the Lt. Governor and the staff at the Department of Higher Education.

## **DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Dr. Gianneschi, reported that SB 52 passed the House appropriations and will go to a final vote on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. George Walker, of Denver, talked about the importance of funding education in Colorado. He was disappointed that neither Chris Romer nor Michael Hancock, the two front runners in the Denver Mayoral race, had presented options for increase funding that could have included a regressive tax, similar to Amendment 23.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

**Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Unit at Fort Lewis College**

**Proposal to Offer a Master of Arts in Music Education at Adams State College**

**Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science at Mesa State College**

**Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics at Metropolitan State College of Denver**

**Initial Approval of Educator Preparation Unit and Programs at Colorado Technical University**

**State Guaranteed General Education Courses**

**FY 2012 COF Eligibility for off-campus programs**

**Revised Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List – University of Colorado at Colorado Springs**

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

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Amendments to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education By-Laws –** Dr. Matt Gianneschi, presented changes staff was proposing to the CCHE by-laws. These included clarifying the difference between the Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Higher Education. The Commission is the policy making body of the Department. Out of date addresses and other ways the public can contact the Commission were revised as well. Finally, the by-laws stated that the annual election of officers must be held each October. In order to better coincide with the General Assembly calendar and the occurrence of the annual CCHE retreat in August, staff recommended changing the by-laws in order to hold the election of officers in May of each calendar year.

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the amendments to the CCHE by-laws. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner and unanimously passed.

**CCHE Leadership** – Dr. Matt Gianneschi, explained this item was predicated on the adoption of the preceding action item. Chairman Polsfut, who served as Chairman for three years, presided over the election of new CCHE leadership. Commissioner Kaufman nominated Vice Chairman Percy for the chairmanship of the CCHE. This nomination was unanimously supported by the CCHE. Commissioner Edwards nominated Commissioner Kaufman for vice Chairman of CCHE. He was also elected unanimously. The change in leadership went into effect at the end of the meeting.

**Degree Authorization Act - Yeshiva Torah Institute: Religious Exempt Authorization** - Heather DeLange, Degree Authorization Act Officer, presented this item for approval by the CCHE. Yeshiva Torah has requested authorization to operate as a seminary or bible college. Staff has conducted the required review of the institution's application materials and finds that the institution meets the requirements for the Religious Exemption under the Degree Authorization Act. After the review of the institution's application materials, staff found the institution meets the requirements for the Religious Exemption under the Degree Authorization Act. Joining Ms. DeLange was Dr. Oswald Garagorry. Dr Garagorry, Rabbi for Aliyah Congregation, will provide the leadership for the Institute, which is located in Monument, Colorado. At this point there are 25 adult students ready to enroll. The Rabbi also explained that most of the enrollment will be from out of state.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve full authorization for Yeshiva Torah Institute as a religious exempt institution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

**Colorado Community College System Academic Degree Designations** – Dr. Cheryl Lovell, Chief Academic Officer, explained to the Commission that the Colorado Community College System submitted ten new academic designations for approval. Legislation passed in the 2010 session allowed CCCS to create degree designations for already existing two year degrees. These designations allow students at the two-year level to pursue academic programs connected to specific academic majors at four-year institutions and will qualify students for admission to the junior year at other colleges and universities in Colorado.

Vice Chair Percy moved to approve the degree designations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevinson and unanimously passed.

**Modifications to the 2011 CCHE Meeting Schedule** – Dr. Matt Gianneschi, presented this item recommending the Commission modify its schedule to include a special telephonic meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 1pm, to take action on the FY 2012 State Financial Aid allocations and to add August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> to the CCHE calendar for the annual retreat and August CCHE meeting.

Commissioner Rodriguez moved to adopt the modifications. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Percy and unanimously passed.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

**Colorado Mountain College - New Baccalaureate Degree Programs** – Margot Plotz, Administrative and Grants Coordinator, presented this item to inform the Commission that the Higher Learning Commission approved the two new baccalaureate programs that CCHE gave preliminary approval to at its March 4, 2011 meeting: the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and the Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies.

**CCHE Master Plan Update** – Dr. Kim Poast, Special Assistant for Planning and Projects, informed the Commission that an amendment added to Senate Bill 11-052 moves the completion date of the statewide master plan from December 1, 2011 to September 1, 2012. This change revises the general timeline to be as follows:

1. April & May, 2011: At regularly scheduled commission meetings, identify priorities for inclusion in the master plan (note: the 86<sup>th</sup> Colorado General Assembly ends May 11, 2011).
2. June - August, 2011: *No Commission Meetings*. Staff will work on policy priorities identified by the CCHE. Convening of key stakeholder groups to include:
  - a. CFO's /Budget Officers
  - b. Student Services
  - c. Instruction/Faculty
  - d. Legislators
  - e. Students
  - f. Other stakeholder groups- foundations, access organizations, affinity groups.
3. August, 2011: CCHE retreat, commissioners will refine priority areas, develop specific goals, consider stakeholder feedback.
4. September, 2011: Begin to develop performance contract framework
5. October/November, 2011: Statewide summit of system chief executive officers and governing board members to discuss master plan/ institutional plan priorities
6. December - June, 2012: CCHE to finalize metrics/ master plan draft
7. June - July, 2012: 30 day governing board comment period
8. September 1, 2012: Master Plan delivered to legislature
9. September - December, 2012: Development and execution of new performance contracts with Governing Boards.

**Budget Update** - Mark Cavanaugh, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the legislature held the proposed budget for higher education at \$519 million, which allowed the institutions to continue planning for tuition setting purposes. Regarding the Department of Higher Education budget, Senate Bill 11-052 will have an amendment that, among other things, restores most of the funding reduction taken earlier in the budget process by the JBC.

Mr. Cavanaugh also talked about the \$125 million budget reduction to higher education from FY 2011 to FY 2012. Once enrollment growth is factored in, this budget reduction is approximately

a \$3,000 amount per resident FTE. If the state funded higher education at the FY 2009 level (\$4,773 per student FTE) another \$296 million would be needed.

**Legislative Update** – Dr. Gianneschi and Chard Marturano, Director of Legislative Affairs, updated the Commissioners on bills affecting higher education.

- HB 11-1301 - addresses student fees, the revised Commission policies pursuant to existing statutes in Title 23 and the definitional issues brought about by the student fee audit in 2010.
- SB 11-052 - connects performance contracts with the master planning process and requires CCHE create a performance based funding plan by December 1, 2012
- SB 11-245 – aims to align the educator preparation programs in both the public, private and proprietary institutions of higher education
- SB 11-265 – changes the name of Mesa State College to Colorado Mesa University
- HB 11-1155 – allows the Lieutenant Governor to serve as the Executive Director of the Department of Higher Education.

Mr. Marturano reported that HB 11-1155 passed. The rest of the bills are working their way through the legislative process.

**August CCHE Business Meeting/Retreat Planning** – Dr. Gianneschi outlined the initial plan for the August 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> annual CCHE retreat. The retreat is being held on the campus of Ft. Lewis College. The state plane will leave Centennial Airport at 8:00am on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup> for the hour-long flight to Durango. President Dene Kay Thomas will conduct a tour of the campus for the Commissioners upon arrival. This will be followed by a working lunch and afternoon meeting. The Ft. Lewis Board of Trustees will hold its retreat during the same time. President Thomas has invited the Board and the Commission to dine at her home together the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup>. On Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, the retreat will continue through the morning. After lunch, a regular CCHE business morning will be held at 1:00pm. The flight from Durango to Denver will follow the CCHE meeting.

Between now and the retreat, staff will be meeting with the CEOs of the state's public institutions, along with their Boards of Trustees, to get feedback for the master planning process. Dennis Jones, President of The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) will attend the retreat to give the Commissioners a better sense of what is occurring nationally in institutions that closely resemble Colorado's 28 public institutions. Staff is also in the process of retaining an organization to do enrollment projections and their impact on the system.

Dr. Gianneschi asked the Commissioners what issues they would like addressed at the retreat.

Commissioner Haynes suggested looking into a work force forecast going out 10 years to understand what future work force demands might be. Chairman Polsfut suggested addressing the funding issue and financial incentives. Commissioner Edwards and Vice Chair Percy agreed that they would like staff to develop standardized audio/visual and printed tools for the Commissioners to have when they are traveling in Colorado representing the CCHE, the

Department and the State. Chairman Polsfut suggested a one- or two-page dashboard to remind and track the level of funding and enrollment.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.