

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
Colorado Mesa University  
September 8, 2011

Chairman Percy called the meeting to order at 10:19am.

Chairman Hereford Percy, Commissioners Larry Beckner, Dave Edwards, Jeanette Garcia, Regina Rodriguez and BJ Scott were in attendance. Vice Chairman Richard Kaufman, Commissioner Happy Haynes and Commissioner Monte Moses attended via teleconference call. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Senator Evie Hudak, Ruth Annette Carter and Dr. Frank Novotny. Advisors Michael Mincic and Dr. Toni Larson also attended via conference call.

Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2011 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and passed unanimously.

Tim Foster, President of Colorado Mesa University, welcomed the Commission to the CMU campus. President Foster stressed the importance of partnerships the university has with members of the community, the city of Grand Junction, Mesa County, local school districts Colorado Northwestern Community College, Colorado Mountain College, the University of Colorado, and student partners. President Foster credits much of CMU's successes to these partnerships. President Foster noted that Colorado Mesa University is the fastest growing four year college in Colorado. President Foster also introduced three student mentors, staff who primarily help first generation students to the school with their academics and finances, health and retention rates. They see themselves as providing the right tools for the students who come to them.

Former First Lady of Colorado, Jeannie Ritter, presented to the Commission. Mrs. Ritter has been an advocate for mental health for many years. She provided the Commission with a presentation on Mental Health First Aid USA. This organization is working with colleges on campuses throughout the state to develop and change the culture around mental health. The program offers a 12-hour training program on campuses to help faculty and staff recognize different disorders, from non-suicidal self harm to suicide, and to assess whether and how to recommend additional care. Mrs. Ritter noted that non-suicidal self harm is up 50% on campuses and that there has been a large increase in anxiety disorders, substance abuse and eating disorders among students. The training the program has been successfully implemented at Colorado State University, where staff have signed up to take future training courses.

Chairman Percy offered Mrs. Ritter an endorsement from the Commission for the program. If there is consensus, a resolution could be drafted at the next CCHE meeting, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, DHE Executive Director, reported that he, Chairman Percy, Dr. Matt Gianneschi and Representative Tom Massey, Chairman of the House Education Committee, attended a national postsecondary productivity conference in Indianapolis, sponsored by the Lumina Foundation. The team had the opportunity to learn what's being done in other states around the issues of productivity, performance funding and transfer articulation. The conference afforded the opportunity to learn about ideas that could help advance the CCHE's long-term goals. Lt. Governor Garcia mentioned that Colorado is ahead of the curve in some areas, especially around articulation of community college courses to the four year schools.

Lt Governor Garcia also discussed Governor Hickenlooper's Education Leadership Council, created by Executive Order in January 2011. The final list of council members who have been appointed is almost complete. The council will begin meeting in late September and will be addressing many different areas of education.

The Lt. Governor also mentioned that the department has been very successful over the last year in receiving grant support; a \$1 million grant from Complete College America; a three-year, \$200,000 a year, grant opportunity from Hewlett Foundation; grant support from HCM strategists to support the master planning process; and a grant from the U. S. Justice Department for Red Rocks Community College's work with inmates coming back into the work force, to name a few.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kathleen Bollard, University of Colorado Vice President and Academic Affairs Officer, wanted the Commission to know that, although agenda item II, A - *Proposal To Offer A Doctor Of Philosophy Degree In Occupation And Rehabilitation Science At Colorado State University* - didn't mention it, the University of Colorado – Denver offers a Ph.D. in rehabilitation science. Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Assistant Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, DHE, informed Dr. Bollard that a memo distributed to the Commissioners before the meeting did clarify that point.

Mr. George Walker of Denver told the Commission he had heard much of the Lobato trail and he was glad to hear that state officials made it very clear that there are funding problems across all levels in the state. He then asked Dr. Gianneschi to clarify funding for the P-20 Council.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

**Proposal To Offer A Doctor Of Philosophy Degree In Occupation And Rehabilitation Science At Colorado State University**

**Reauthorization Of Educator Preparation Unit At Metropolitan State College Of Denver**

## **Revisions To Policy Section I, Part P: Educator Preparation Policy**

### **Additional Appointments To The “Education Success Task Force” Created By Senate Bill 111-11**

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

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Approval Of Fee Structure For Review of gtPathways Courses at Nonpublic Institutions –** Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Assistant Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, asked the Commission to approve the fee structure for the review of gtPathways courses at non-public institutions. Senate Bill 10-108 gave non-public institutions of higher education the right to submit their general education courses for consideration into the state gtPathways curriculum. The bill also gave DHE authority to charge the non-public institutions for this review of course work. DHE staff, along with GE Council, put together the fee structure. It is separated into three parts. The first is the cost per review cycle. The second is the cost for the first course in a discipline and the third is the cost for each additional course in a discipline. The only private institution to express interest in submitting their course work is Colorado Technical University. Staff from that institution had reviewed the fee structure and expect to submit 11 courses in October.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the fee structure. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez and unanimously passed with Commissioner Garcia abstaining.

**Degree Authorization Act – Amendment to CCHE Policy: Section I, Part J -** Dr. Matt Gianneschi, Deputy Executive Director, presented this item for Heather DeLange. The Degree Authorization Act is a policy that allows CCHE to authorize private providers of traditional baccalaureate degrees, as well as bible colleges, to operate in Colorado. The Division of Private Occupational Schools authorizes occupational or trade schools that offer certificate (non-degree) programs. In the mid-eighties, when the policies were written, these were two distinct categories of institutions. This amendment does not attempt to merge the two policies, but tries to create a special circumstance in the Degree Authorization Act. Recently, some institutions that are authorized as private occupational schools have been authorized, or have sought authorization from their accrediting bodies, to award baccalaureate degrees. This policy change is requested for purposes of addressing the special case of an institution authorized under the Division of Private Occupational Schools seeking joint authorization from the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to offer degrees at the baccalaureate level and higher as permitted by the Degree Authorization Act.

Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve the policy change. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and unanimously passed.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

**Articulation Agreement Update** – Dr. Ian Macgillivray presented this item to summarize the status of potential statewide articulation agreements in anticipation of meeting the statutory requirement of fourteen agreements by July 1, 2016. There are currently 10 approved agreements already in place, with two more coming to the Commission for approval in 2011 and the possibility of three more agreements for approval in late 2011 or early 2012.

Two of the articulation agreements already in place are Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education. These agreements have been in place since 2004. They will probably be found to not meet the new requirements and will have to come off the list.

**Graduation Guidelines and Postsecondary Workforce Readiness Endorsed Diploma** - Tamara White Johnson, Director of Admission and Access Policy, presented this item. Senate Bill 08-212, also known as Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids or CAP4K, is creating an aligned preschool to postsecondary educational system. The State Board of Education (SBE) will adopt on or before December 15, 2011, a comprehensive set of guidelines for the establishment of high school graduation requirements to be used by each school district board of education in developing local high school graduation requirements. Graduation guidelines adopted by the SBE will identify minimum standards or core competencies or skills expected from all high school graduates. These guidelines can be thought of as “what is needed to exit high school,” whereas the PWR Endorsement and Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR) can be thought of as “what is needed to enter higher education.” Development of the graduation guidelines will be done in alignment with the timing and development of the PWR endorsed diploma criteria. CDE will collaborate with the DHE to ensure the graduation guidelines align with the PWR Endorsement and HEAR. A student with a PWR endorsed diploma will be guaranteed (subject to additional institutional review of other admission and placement qualifications):

1. To meet minimum academic qualifications for admission to all open or selective public institutions of higher education in CO, and to be eligible for placement into credit-bearing courses.
2. To receive priority consideration, in conjunction with additional criteria, for placement into credit-bearing courses at all other (highly selective) public institutions of higher education in CO.

The Endorsed Diploma Task Force will be meeting at least once per month this fall. On November 10, 2011, the SBE and CCHE will hold the first of two joint meetings and will review and discuss endorsed diploma criteria

**FY 2012-13 Colorado Budget and Economic Update** – Mark Cavanaugh, Chief Financial Officer, informed the Commission of the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSBP) presentation that was given to the CEOs and CFOs of the public institutions on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The presentation gave an overview of the state’s budget and economy. Mr. Cavanaugh highlighted some of the findings: slow job growth (less revenue); the senior homestead exemption being reinstated (almost \$98 million in general funds); funding for the State Education Fund to keep it solvent (\$200-\$300 million); a 121% increase in Medicaid enrollment; flat employment (flat revenues); and a \$2.5 billion gap between actual revenues and revenues adjusted for inflation and

population. Due to “must-fund” Medicare and K-12 programs, higher education will likely be the one of the last areas funded and on the list for budget balancing actions.

The next revenue forecast will be published by OSPB on September 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### DISCUSSION ITEM

**Preliminary Goals for 2012 CCHE Master Plan** – Dr. Gianneschi, in the effort to maintain the momentum from the master planning at the August CCHE retreat, offered an agenda item that defines the four broad goals the Commissioners identified during their retreat at Fort Lewis College in Durango. These goals have been shared with the higher education community.

The four goals are as follows:

- Increased degree attainment to meet the future work force demands
- Close the gaps in degree attainment among students in underserved communities
- Improve outcomes and remedial education with the alignment of the K-12 system and postsecondary admissions
- Maintain current efficiencies in the system while allowing growth to accommodate increased enrollment

The Commissioners agreed that the four goals articulated in the discussion item accurately represent the discussions had and decisions made by the CCHE at its retreat.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.