TOPIC: EXAMINING THE STATUS OF THE CURRENT

CONFIGURATION OF THE COLORADO ADMISSION INDEX

PREPARED BY: DR. SONIA BRANDON, COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY

I. SUMMARY

In 1987, pursuant to statute, the Commission established state-level admission standards for first-time entering undergraduates at each of the 4-year public institutions of higher education. These standards were derived by the calculation of an index based on two components, a high school performance component and one based on standardized test performance. Using an equipercentile equating methodology, crosswalks of ACT to SAT scores, as well as HS GPA to Class Rank were developed. As only three of the four items used in this calculation are standardized, it is important to periodically evaluate any shifts in these crosswalks, in particular to eliminate any effect on the admission index by grade inflation in the high schools. Additionally, as remedial placement is also heavily dependent upon standardized test components, alignment of the two policies should also be examined. This study therefore addresses two questions. First, has there been a shift in the alignment of the crosswalks of the admission index since it was last realigned in 2003, and if so, what is the impact of the applicant pool and enrollment by institution? Secondly, how does the current construction align with the remedial placement policy, and are there other methods of construction that might increase that alignment? Next steps in the examination will also be discussed.

II. BACKGROUND

In October 2011, the State of Colorado, acting by and through the Colorado Department of Higher Education solicited proposals from qualified researchers to conduct analyses on specific topics related to postsecondary education in Colorado. The project areas included: Student Price Sensitivity, Educator Preparation and Effectiveness, Student Retention and Transfer Study, Admissions Standards Policy Impact Study and a Comprehensive Remedial Analysis. Colorado Mesa University (CMU) was awarded one of the two research contracts regarding the Admissions Standards Policy Impact Study. Auglenblick, Paliach, and Associates (APA) are working collaboratively on another piece of the Admissions Standards Policy Impact Study.

III. CONTRACTED RESEARCH ANALYSIS

Summary report provided.

IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is an information item only; no formal action is required by the Commission.