

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Adams State University (ASU)
September 14, 2012

Chairman Percy called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Chairman Hereford Percy, Vice Chairman Dick Kaufman, Commissioners Larry Beckner, Jeanette Garcia, Happy Haynes and Dr. Patty Pacey attended. Dr. Monte Moses, Jim Polsfut and BJ Scott attended via conference call. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Michael Mincic, Dr. Frank Novotny, Mark Superka, Keith Owen and Laura Rutz. Dr. Toni Larson and Ruth Annette Carter attended via conference call.

Commissioner Beckner moved to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2012 CCHE meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

Dr. David Svaldi, President of Adams State University, welcomed the Commission to the campus. Dr. Svaldi had four students of ASU address the Commission and tell their unique experiences as students, how they got to ASU, and how, with scholarships, grants and loans, they have been successful.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Dr. Matt Gianneschi gave the Executive Director Report in Lt. Governor Joe Garcia's stead. The Lt. Governor now serves on a national commission for online education and is attending its meeting in D.C.

Dr. Gianneschi reported that the Colorado State Board of Education has joined the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), a national assessment consortium, thus giving higher education a vote on the PARCC advisory committee. PARCC is creating an assessment plan system for English language arts and mathematics for grades three through eleven, to replace the CSAP/TCAP used now. This plan will help inform the admission policy for higher education institutes and will, eventually, be incorporated into the Commission's admission and remediation policies.

Dr. Gianneschi attended a Lumina Foundation event as part of a fellowship for state policy leadership. He also informed the Commission of a new department staff member, Dr. Brittany Lane. Dr. Lane will be the leader of teacher and education preparation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Walker, of Denver, commented on the September 9th Denver Post article regarding funding for higher education, graduation rates, achievement gaps and remedial education. He believes the Post ignored the P20 concept and the Lobato decision. Mr. Walker also spoke to the lack of diversity at the flagship campus of the University of Colorado.

Mr. Frank Waterous, Senior Policy Analyst for the Bell Policy Center, respectfully asked the Commission to be very cautious about how changes to the financial aid allocation methodologies and eligibility requirements might impact non-traditional working adult students.

CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Ian Macgillivray requested that consent item, Proposal To Offer A Bachelor Of Arts In Ethnic Studies At The University Of Colorado Denver, be postponed until the December 6, 2012 CCHE meeting

Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Science in Human Services at Colorado State University-Global Campus

Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Science in Marketing at Colorado State University-Global Campus

Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Science in Project Management at Colorado State University-Global Campus

Proposal to Offer a Master of Finance at Colorado State University-Global Campus

Proposal to Offer a Master of International Management at Colorado State University-Global Campus

Proposal to Offer a Master of Project Management at Colorado State University-Global Campus

Proposal to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Endorsement at Regis University's Regis College

Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Science Degree in Ecosystem Science and Sustainability at Colorado State University

Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Science in Architecture at the University of Colorado Denver

Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Science in Bioengineering at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

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

Revision of CCHE Policies to Reflect Statutory Name Changes

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

ACTION ITEMS

Commissioner Haynes moved to take the first Action Item, Annual Election of Colorado Commission of Higher Education Officers, out of order and postpone the action until the end of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner and unanimously passed.

Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation for Revocation of Authorization of Yorktown University – Heather DeLange, Academic Policy Officer, reported that Yorktown University has operated under the Degree Authorization Act since 2003 and received full authorization from CCHE in September 2008. The institution’s accrediting body, the Distance Education and Training Council, withdrew accreditation for Yorktown University on June 15, 2012, and the institution chose not to appeal the decision. Department staff received notice, on July 16, 2012, of the school’s Board of Trustees recommendation to voluntarily relinquish that accreditation. Staff recommended that the Commission revoke the authorization for Yorktown University to operate in Colorado.

Ms. Delange noted that there are fewer than five students enrolled at the institution and they have been informed of the pending action. The school will be eligible to continue to operate, just not under CCHE authorization.

Commissioner Hynes moved to revoke Yorktown University’s authorization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacey and unanimously passed.

INFORMATION ITEM

Potential Tuition Reciprocity Agreements with Utah, Kansas and Nebraska – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Assistant Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, updated the Commission on reciprocity agreements being pursued with Utah, Kansas and Nebraska. These agreements were requested by both the CCHE and the Colorado Community College System. The agreements will be modeled after the current agreement Colorado has with New Mexico. The agreements will allow a certain number of FTE students from each state to pay resident tuition rates in another state. No state funds are exchanged between the states.

Draft agreements and letters have been sent to the Utah System, Western Nebraska Community College, Colby Community College, Dodge City Community College, Garden City Community College and Seward County Community College, all in Kansas.

Department staff will follow up on letters and draft agreements that were sent and will continue to update the Commission.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Financial Aid Allocation Discussion – Celina Duran, Financial Aid Administrator, led a discussion regarding potential changes to the way financial aid is allocated. After hearing from state and national financial aid experts at their retreat, Ms. Duran presented the following options to improve the state’s return on investment of financial aid:

- Time to Degree – creates an incentive for institutions who serve students in a reasonable time frame
- Completion – views performance as course completion rather than grades
- Targeting Lowest Income – consider a lower than 150% of Pell eligibility to help provide access to the lowest income families
- Targeting Highest Risk – identify students who are least likely to continue without aid.
- Shared Responsibility – students are required to contribute through work study or loans, families contribute and Federal aid is applied. State share of financial aid is last dollar applied

The Commissioners agreed that changes to the state’s financial aid allocation method are probably advisable in light of the current financial and enrollment circumstances and asked staff to supply the following information for their consideration:

- What helps the most with access and where does it help?
- What helps with completion?
- What do institutions identify as the greatest need?

Staff will present the response and supporting data to the Commission at the October 4, 2013 meeting.

Master Plan Update - Dr. Matt Gianneschi, presented a copy of the draft Master Plan with revisions from the August retreat discussion to enter into the Commission’s official record, to discuss a proposed template for demonstrating institutional performance pursuant to goals found in the Master Plan and to discuss a process for completing negotiations with institutions.

A revised draft of the Master Plan was given to the campus CEOs and governing boards, as well as the House and Senate Education Committees. The deadline of September 14, 2012 for the delivery of the Master Plan was delayed in order to provide sufficient time to review and comment on proposed modifications.

A draft performance contract worksheet was presented to the Commission. This worksheet presented different indicators and metrics into the four goals of the Master Plan (credential completion, student momentum and success, close progress and attainment gaps and financial stewardship). In order to tailor the performance process to fit each institution, campuses would identify the indicators where improvements can be made and how much weight should be assigned to them.

The Commissioners agreed to use three-year rolling averages in the performance contracts. Commissioners would like to use both undergraduate and graduate degrees offered by public universities with the emphasis on undergraduate degrees. The Commission will consider all

certificates and degrees in the community college level and use the “one student, one credential” approach. Regarding “underserved” students, the Commission does not want all “underserved” students to be included in one group, but disaggregated into categories. Commissioners agree to use an indicator for low income as at or below Pell grant eligibility.

The Commission agreed that, moving forward, to promote transparency and continue to have open communication, each institution will have meetings with two appointed Commissioners and appropriate Department of Higher Education staff through the performance contract process.

ACTION ITEM

Annual Election of Colorado Commission of Higher Education Officers – Commissioner Jeanette Garcia nominated Vice Chair Dick Kaufman to be elected Chairman and Dr. Patty Pacey to be Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

The Commissioners expressed gratitude to outgoing Chairman Percy for his service.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm.