

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Legislative Services Building
March 13, 2015

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:10pm

Chairman Kaufman, Commissioners John Anderson, Jeanette Garcia, Vanecia Kerr, Monte Moses, Hereford Percy, Regina Rodriguez, Paula Sandoval and BJ Scott attended. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Representative Jeni Arndt, Representative Mike Foote, Senator Nancy Todd, Stacie Amaya, Wayne Artis, Steve Kreidler, Dr. Toni Larson, Dr. Barbara Morris and Melissa Wagner. CCHE Advisor Dr. Keith Owen attended via conference call.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2015 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and passed unanimously.

Chairman Kaufman introduced and welcomed new Commissioner Paula Sandoval and new CCHE Legislative Advisors Representative Jeni Arndt, Representative Mike Foote, Student Advisor Stacie Amaya and CFO Advisor Steve Kreidler.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, Executive Director, discussed forming CCHE sub-committees; two standing and one ad hoc. The first standing committees would be fiscal affairs and audits, led by CFO Diane Duffy, and the second would be student and academic affairs, led by Dr. Rhonda Epper. The ad hoc committee would be around funding development and will be led by the Commissioners.

Lt. Governor Garcia asked the Commission to delay consideration of action item V, A, *Recommend Approval of Process for Statewide Prior Learning Assessment Policy* until the May 2015 CCHE meeting. The Academic Council, consisting of academic leaders from all the public institutions, met with staff over the past few weeks and requested the delay to allow for more time to consider the goals, the timeline and the work plan. They will hold their next meeting with staff in April to discuss their concerns further. Academic Council also wanted to look at the specific language in the student bill of rights. Staff believes that that student bill of rights makes it abundantly clear that this is one of the things that the Commission should be doing. It provides for transparency and ease of transfer and guarantees students general education courses that will transfer regardless of delivery methods and who provides them. This will give Academic Council more time to give staff their input and it is important that the seamless and consistent transfer policy and a consistent and seamless prior learning assessment policy is part of the Commissions responsibility to help the state meet its completion goals.

Commissioner Moses agrees that a two month delay will foster more conversation with the institutions and he expressed hope that the process will then move forward in an expeditious way.

Commissioner Percy questioned the delay. The Lt. Governor explained that although the Commission feels they have the authority to start the process, the institutions don't believe that as of yet. The delay will hopefully foster more buy in from the institutions.

Lt. Governor Garcia told the Commission about local and national news involving Adams State University and their extended studies programs. Although there were some problems at ASU, the news overstated the issues and ASU made immediate changes in response to those issues. DHE is working with the inter-regional quality guidelines for distance learning and has gone to the ASU campus in response to the allegations.

The Lt. Governor also reported the department received a technical assistance grant from the Lumina Foundation to conduct new technology products and analytics program that support Guided Pathways to Success at institutions throughout the state.

ADVISOR REPORTS

Dr. Toni Larson informed the Commission what she is retiring after 29 years. The Chancellor and President of the University of Denver have appointed former Department of Higher Education CFO, Mark Cavanaugh, to replace Dr. Larson. Mr. Cavanaugh will also replace Dr. Larson as the CCHE Advisor representing the Independent Higher Education Institutions.

Wayne Artis reported that the Colorado Faculty to Faculty meeting was held on February 20th and the discussion about prior learning assessments was quit cordial.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Walker, of Denver, expressed his opinion that the CCHE was a multi-racial, multi-ethnic model for the state, if not the nation. He again lamented the fact that Colorado is close to last in state funding for higher education and close to last in closing the ethnic achievement gap. He believes these facts merit a conversation about President Obama's free community college proposal.

PRESENTATION

Greg Smith, Executive Director of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA), gave the Commission a PowerPoint presentation about PERA and how it currently operates.

CONSENT ITEMS

Recommend Approval of Masters of the Environment at the University of Colorado-Boulder – Dr. Ian Macgillivray

Recommend Approval for the University of Northern Colorado to Offer Dance Teaching Endorsement – Dr. Robert Mitchell

Recommend Approval for Fort Lewis College to Offer Culturally Linguistically Diverse Bilingual Endorsement – Dr. Robert Mitchell

Recommend Approval for the Reauthorization of the Educator Preparation Unit at the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs – Dr. Robert Mitchell

Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List Amendment – University of Northern Colorado – Andrew Rausch

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the consent items A through E. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Skills for Jobs Report and Talent Pipeline Report – Dr. Lauren Victor, Research and Policy Analyst, wrote the reports and Dr. Beth Bean, Chief Research Officer, presented to the Commission by showing a PowerPoint presentation of the Skills for Jobs and Talent Pipeline Reports.

Commissioner Anderson asked if the state is on track for 2020 when 74 percent of the workforce will have to have a post-secondary certificate. Colorado will have to increase certificates by approximately 1,000 per year. The Master Plan goal states that certificates have to increase by six percent to achieve the goal of having 66 percent of the population obtain a post-secondary certificate.

Dr. Bean stated that Dr. Victor's reports show the state is on track but there is ongoing deeper research into the numbers.

Commissioner Percy asked where the research came from showing the Colorado workforce as having one of the highest percentages of analytical and interpersonal skills, such as critical thinking, social perceptiveness and creativity. Dr. Bean replied that the statistics came from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) based on a survey they had done.

FY 2015-16 Budget Update –Tonya Covarrubias, Lead Finance Analyst, told the Commission that the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) had their figure setting on March 3rd. At the figure setting hearing the JBC decided to eliminate the strategic performance improvement program and put those dollars into the HB14-1319 model. As a result the money running through the model will be \$75.6 million instead of \$60.5 million. The JBC did ask for additional models but will wait until after the revenue forecast on March 18th to make any allocations. Although a financial aid increase was not requested the JBC decided to give the statutory increase, meaning it will increase at the same rate as the operating budget is increased.

The JBC increased the College Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) by \$4 million, although the request was for \$30 million.

Also requested were reappropriated funds to maintain the department's research and data functions. The JBC approved approximately \$100,000 and the department will be going back to ask for an additional \$90,000.

The bottom two items, the Colorado Geological Survey FTE as well as the Fort Lewis Native American tuition waiver, were both approved by joint budget committee staff.

Commissioner Garcia asked about the \$5 million set aside for the five year implementation of HB14-1319.

Ms. Covarrubias replied the JBC staff will keep the bottom guard rail at 10 percent for this year, leaving that portion of the five year request intact. The \$10 million Strategic Investment Performance Programs, which the department hoped to give in grants to institutions to increase their performance in the model, was not approved. Instead, the JBC decided that the \$10 million the department requested for this program will run through the model as opposed to being part of that transitional program.

FY2015-2016 Financial Aid Allocation Model Adjustment – Celina Duran, Lead Finance Analyst, presented the Commission with three models for allocating financial aid to the institutions, as the JBC moved to increase financial aid at the same rate as the operating budget.

The first model assumes the JBC increased level of state funding is \$17.4 million, without a hold harmless provision. With a large increase, all but two institutions receive an increase without any adjustments to the model. Model 2 looks at a five percent minimum increase with a cap of 30 percent and the model 3 looks at a 10 percent minimum increase with a 40 percent cap.

Ms. Duran explained that the models aren't looking at total dollars yet, but at model metrics. The increment by grade level was increased to \$276.00. This year the increment is raised to \$319.00 or 15.7%. Regarding increased funds spent when financial allocations are made, Ms. Duran explained that need-based financial aid dollars are easy to spend, whereas, work study dollars are more challenging as there is an administrative component. The institutions report how much of the allocation was actually passed on to students twice each school year, in November and again in April. If there is funding that goes unspent the institutions would release it back to the department and it would be redistributed it to institutions that can use it.

Commissioner Garcia asked if the amount of monies between grade levels is the same. Ms. Duran explained that the increment between grade levels is still the stair steps with increasing rates for each sophomore and then again for each junior and again for each senior. There is an advance senior allocation, which is a freshman rate, to encourage timely completion.

Commissioner Percy commented that the institutions that are seeing increases are usually due to declining enrollment. Ms. Duran said it was also due to the large increase in financial aid last year.

Ms. Duran said she will have the final numbers for the financial aid allocation to be voted on at the April CCHE meeting

Legislative Update – Kachina Weaver, Chief Legislative Officer, provided an update on the 2015 Legislative Session. Specifically, she discussed: the current status of the funding allocation model in the hands of the JBC; SB 117, which could impact how minority populations are treated in the model, is currently awaiting further action and the department is hopeful it will not progress further; HB 1156, which as amended prohibits using dollars allocated through the fee-for-service contract for direct financial support of a non-resident student, has passed the House Education committee and is awaiting further action; the bipartisan workforce package of bills, which touch on a host of initiatives to help feed Colorado’s business needs; SB 171, which reauthorizes DPOS; and a host of bills that would modify, repeal, or delay the implementation of the Colorado Academic Standards and standardized testing.

ACTION ITEM

Recommendation to Approve Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part U: Policy and Procedures for Counting and Accepting American Sign Language Credits in Public Higher Education Institutions in Colorado - Carl Einhaus, Director of Student Affairs, briefed the Commissioners on the discussion held at the CCHE meeting in February as to the changes in the policy. Colorado public post-secondary institutions identified areas of the current policy which were inconsistent and/or needed clarification. The most significant of these changes include substituting all mention of “foreign” language with “world” language and correcting the number of world language years required to satisfy Higher Education Admission Requirements.

Commissioner Moses moved to approve revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part U. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sandoval and unanimously passed.

Commissioner Sandoval moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.