

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Civic Center Plaza
April 7, 2017**

I. OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman Monte Moses called the business meeting to order at 1:05pm.

A. Attendance

Chairman Monte Moses, Vice Chairman Luis Colon, Commissioners John Anderson, Maia Babbs, Mary Beth Buescher, Renny Fagan, Cassie Gannett, Jeanette Garcia, Tom McGimpsey and Paula Sandoval attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Steve Kreidler, Audy Leggere-Hickey, Misti Ruthven and Melissa Wagner.

B. Minutes

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2017 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

C. Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners and Advisor Reports

- Chairman Moses congratulated CCHE Student Advisor Audy Legerre-Hickey, named a 2017 all USA Scholar from the top 20 students nationwide, and the winner of the Colorado New Century Scholar, awarded to the top student from each state.
- He noted for the Commissioners two New York Times articles, one about how to help first generation and low income students find successful pathways to college completion and the second one on guided pathways.
- Commissioner John Anderson reported that the Academic Affairs and Student Success committee held discussions on Concurrent Enrollment/dual enrollment and remediation.

D. Executive Director Report

- Dr. Reed shared handouts of the press release and information regarding The Guardian Initiative by the Association of Governing Boards.
- She announced that she has accepted a position on the Board of the Higher Learning Advocates. Higher Learning Advocates is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that will support and advance policy changes to increase postsecondary attainment, specifically policies that support a system of higher learning that is student-centered, equitable, outcomes-based, and focused on educational quality. Higher Learning Advocates will work

across the political aisle and with a broad array of stakeholder groups to advocate for policies that address the postsecondary needs of all of today's students.

- Dr. Reed recognized the great work of Stephanie Ricker, Academic Project Manager, who oversees the FAFSA Completion Initiative.
- She reported on her campus visits to Fort Lewis College, the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Colorado –Boulder.
- Dr. Reed noted the Commissioner's statement on international students was publicized.
- The Director reminded everyone that College Friday is April 21st.

II. Consent Items

- A. Recommend Approval of BS in Wildlife and Natural Resources at Colorado State University – Pueblo – *Dr. Ian Macgillivray***
- B. Recommend Approval of Bachelor of Science/Bachelor of Innovation degree in Data Analytics & Systems Engineering at University of Colorado Colorado Springs – *Dr. Ian Macgillivray***
- C. Recommend Approval of Master of Arts in Higher Education at University of Colorado Boulder – *Dr. Ian Macgillivray***
- D. Recommend Approval of Master of Science in Medical Science and Master of Science in Basic Oral Sciences at University of Colorado Denver – Anschutz Medical Campus – *Dr. Ian Macgillivray***
- E. Recommend Approval of Master of Arts in Foundations of Professional Psychology at University of Northern Colorado – *Dr. Ian Macgillivray***
- F. Recommend Approval of Colorado Community College System - Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List Amendment – *Cat Olukotun***

Commissioner Buescher moved to approve consent items A through F. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Colon and unanimously passed.

III. Revisiting the Master Plan – Dr. Reed walked Commissioners through a PowerPoint presentation laying out where the discussion currently is with refreshing the Master Plan, which included Commissioner comments and feedback to date. This presentation included the important data points on what Colorado needs to do in order to reach 66% attainment by 2025, how each of the strategic goals support this statewide goal, and critical targets that will demonstrate progress and how those will be measured. There was a lot of conversation among Commissioners and questions for staff. A robust and detailed discussion took place around Strategic Goal #4 .Staff will incorporate this discussion into the next iteration of the “draft” refreshed Master Plan

Staff shared the following timeline for completion of the Master Plan refresh:

- April 11th – Ms. Weaver will share second iteration of the Master Plan draft text with Commissioners via email
- April 21st – Commissioner comments due back to Ms. Weaver
- April 25th – Mr. Maestas will share PowerPoint presentation with CFO's and ask for feedback/comments.

- April 27th – Dr. Reed will share PowerPoint presentation with CEO’s and ask for feedback/comments, as well as invite them to participate in a panel discussion at the May 5th CCHE meeting
- April 28th – Ms. Weaver will share third iteration of the Master Plan draft text with Commissioners via email
- May 5th – CCHE Commission meeting
 - Possible CEO panel discussion on near final draft
 - Final Commission discussion on near final draft
- June 1st – CCHE acts on final pre-publication version of the refreshed Master Plan

IV. Written Report Presentation

Michael Vente, Research and Information Policy Officer with DHE, presented this year’s Concurrent Enrollment report. This is a joint report prepared with significant input from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

Mr. Vente outlined several highlights from the report. More than 30 percent of Colorado 11th- and 12th-graders – 38,519 high school students – participated in Concurrent Enrollment, ASCENT or other dual enrollment programs in 2015-16. This is an increase of more than 2,800 students from 2014-15, or a 7.9 percent increase in dual enrollment participation overall. Concurrent Enrollment continues to see sustained increases in participation, up 10.4 percent statewide with 25,534 students participating in 2015-16. A large majority of the Concurrent Enrollment hours taken by students - 93 percent - were passed in 2015-16 (unchanged from last year). Nearly 1,500 students in Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT programs earned some type of postsecondary credential in 2015-16. Statewide, 94 percent of school districts and 82 percent of high schools offer Concurrent Enrollment programs.

Carl Einhaus, Director of Student Affairs with DHE, presented information about the work of the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board (CEAB) and shared with the Commission a memorandum from the CEAB outlining initiatives to expand dual enrollment opportunities to students.

Representatives from the Poudre School District provided the Commission a view of the Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT within the Poudre School District. Sheila Pottorff (Director of Post-Secondary Workforce Readiness) and Kelly Kappel (Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness Internship Coordinator/ASCENT Coordinator) explained how the Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT programs worked in their District and discussed some of the improvements that could strengthen the programs including funding for additional ASCENT slots.

Commissioner Garcia noted that nearly half of the ASCENT students are Hispanic and asked if there were plans to expand the program. Misti Ruthven at CDE explained the funding method for ASCENT slots. Vice Chair Colon stated that dual enrollment programs, especially the ASCENT program, give students significant opportunities before they graduate from high school.

V. Discussion Items

A. FY 2017-18 Budget Update – Tonya Covarrubias, Lead Finance Analyst for Budget, gave an update on the FY 2018 Budget. She did a review of the budget

calendar, including past and future dates for budget action. Ms. Covarrubias also explained that the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) concurred with the Governor's request for higher education, including \$20 million for public institutions of higher education. The JBC also adopted the Commission approved funding allocation model and tuition cost-sharing matrix. Finally, Ms. Covarrubias gave the Commission a review of the individual governing board operating allocations and tuition caps included in the FY 2018 Long Bill.

B. Legislative Update - Kachina Weaver provided a quick update on the status of pending legislation, as the Legislature nears its final month of session. Current information on bills can be found via the following hyperlinks:

[Active Bill Impacting Higher Education](#)
[Passed Bill Impacting Higher Education](#)
[Failed Bills that would Have Impacted Higher Education](#)

C. Revisions to Commission Policy I, E: Statewide Remedial Education – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Director of Academic Affairs, presented the Commissioners with changes to the current policy as follows:

- Title and Introduction
- Terminology and Flow Charts for Placement
- College-Readiness Guidelines
- Responsibilities
- Students Exempt from Secondary Evaluation
- Course Challenge Option
- Grievance Procedure and Filing a Student Complaint
- Data Reporting

This item will be brought forth to the Commissioners at the May meeting for approval.

D. Revisions to Commission Policy I, J and Fee Schedule: Degree Authorization Act – Heather DeLange, Academic Policy Officer, explained the proposed policy and fee schedule changes to the Commission. The proposed changes are to provide clarification to ambiguous language as well as to codify practice into policy. This item will be brought forth to the Commissioners at the May meeting for approval.

VI. Action Items

A. Financial Aid Policy Update Reflecting Statutory Changes for the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Grant Program – Andrew Rauch, Lead Financial Analyst, presented the revised financial aid policy for approval. The statutory authority for the state-funded financial aid programs is housed in the financial aid policy; therefore, any time there is a change in statute, there needs to be a corresponding change to policy. As initially enacted, the program restricted student eligibility to those who were eligible for Pell. However, this created an issue in identifying eligible students, as many of the CTE programs are too short to qualify for Title IV federal aid. House Bill 17-1180 changed the statutory

authority for the CTE Grant Program by allowing the Commission to adopt a menu of eligibility criteria in its guidelines, as well as allowing institutions to apply the funding to tuition, fees, and course materials. The legislation cleared both legislative chambers and went into effect at the end of March, when it was signed by Governor Hickenlooper.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the financial aid policy update. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sandoval and unanimously passed.

- B. Fiscal Year 2017-18 Need-Based Financial Aid Allocation Model** – Mr. Rauch presented this item recommending approval of Model 4, guardrail provisions of 7% and +13%, for the FY 2017-18 need-based financial aid allocation. This agenda item is a follow-up to the discussion item brought in March, and it reflects the technical aspects of the undergraduate need-based financial aid allocation model. Final allocations are brought the Commission in June for all programs.

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the financial aid allocation model. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Colon and unanimously passed.

- C. State-Funded Program Plan Approval – Colorado Mesa University** – Cat Olukotun, Lead Financial Analyst, brought forward this action item for the Commission to approve the program plan for the Colorado Mesa University (CMU) Health Sciences Center –Phase II. Ms. Olukotun walked the Commission through the process for considering CMU’s program plan request outside the normal budget cycle based on C.R.S. 23-1-106(5)(a). She then provided the Commission with an overview of the program plan and the alignment with CCHE Facility Program Planning guidelines.

Colorado Mesa University (CMU) was represented in person by Mr. Jim Jacobs, Policy Analyst, and via telephone by Ms. Laura Glatt, Chief Financial Officer, and Dr. Cynthia Pemberton, VP for Academic Affairs.

Questions from Commissioners centered on requesting an explanation from CMU for the reason behind the urgent, out of cycle request for program approval.

Ms. Glatt and Dr. Pemberton indicated that CMU would like to have the Commission approve the program plan because they recently received a letter from their accrediting agency indicating that CMU would be eligible to apply for an “accelerated track” for accreditation for their Physician’s Assistant (PA), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Physical Therapy (PT) new graduate programs. CMU indicated it is their intention to present the program plan to the legislature for funding consideration once approved by the Commission.

A Commissioner asked if approving the program plan would open the door to CMU for receiving state funding. CMU indicated that they would also consider “swapping” some of their current projects on the list for funding of the Health Sciences Center –Phase II.

Chairman Moses asked the Fiscal Affairs and Audit subcommittee for their opinion, since the subcommittee is heavily involved in the annual capital priority

list. Commissioners expressed concern about approving the program plan, the potential impact on the transparency of the prioritization process and that the approval might jeopardize the credibility of the process.

CMU was asked if it could clarify how program approval affected their accreditation and Dr. Pemberton indicated that they had submitted their request to be on the accelerated track that morning (Friday, April 7, 2017). CMU was also asked if the institution could have waited to present to CCHE before moving forward with the request. Dr. Pemberton answered that that could have been a possibility but CMU had already submitted their response.

CMU was asked to clarify if they are looking for state funding for the project since CMU indicated that program plan approval is not necessary for the accreditation of the programs. Dr. Pemberton answered that part of the accreditation package does require some sort of facility component.

A Commissioner asked if CMU could start the PA program first and then have the other programs (PT/OT) follow later. The Commissioner also asked if CMU could enter into a partnership. CMU indicated that the space is still needed on campus and a partnership would not resolve that issue.

There was support expressed for approving the CMU program plan, even though there was concern about the timing of the request, because of the merits of the program and its positive effect on Western Colorado. The case was made that these programs are in line with the goals of the Commission's Master Plan.

Commissioners noted concern about the fairness to the other institutions and the integrity of the annual capital budget prioritization process.

Chairman Moses asked CMU if they would like to include any other information on the subject. CMU indicated that the programs were needed in their region and they would not "lobby" but present the project to the legislature for funding consideration.

Commissioner Fagan moved to approve the State-Funded Program Plan Approval. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buescher and failed with two in favor and eight opposed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm