

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION



John Hickenlooper
Governor

Lt. Gov. Joseph A. Garcia
Executive Director

Academic Council

January 14, 2014

1:00-3:00pm

Department of Higher Education
1560 Broadway -Suite 1600 - Denver, CO 80202

Call-in Number: 1-877-820-7831; Access code: 215368#

To join the webinar: <http://connect.enetcolorado.org/r6rviwp1tfy/>

Approved Meeting Notes

1. Greetings and Introductions

In attendance: Jon Bellum (CSU-Global Camus), Kathleen Bollard (CU System), David Moon for Mary Coussons-Read (UCCS), Carol Futhey (CMU), Vicki Golich (MSU Denver), Diane Hegeman (CCCS), Jerry Migler (CCCS), Rick Miranda (CSU), Bill Niemi (WSCU), Donna Norwood (Aims), Frank Novotny (ASU), Brad Tyndall (CMC), and Robbyn Wacker (UNC).

2. Approval of Last Meeting's Notes [see handout: 2013-11-12 - NOTES-AC]

Approved

3. 2014 CCHE Meeting Dates & Locations

- Meeting dates, locations and agendas (past and present) can be found at <http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/CCHE/Meetings/default.html>

4. CollegeinColorado Website and Degree Offerings (Julia Pirnack, Director of Web and Curriculum Development, CiC, 720-264-8562 or Julia.Pirnack@cic.state.co.us) (1:10PM)

- Potential students use www.collegeincolorado.org to find degree programs that match their interests. However, not all institutions' entire offerings of degree programs are listed.
- All public institutions in Colorado are on this site free of charge and can update and add info any time they wish to their virtual campus tour.

CiC reps were not able to attend. I encouraged AC reps to peruse their institutions' degree offerings on the website and make sure they're complete as this website gets a lot of traffic from students and parents looking for colleges to attend and programs to complete.

5. Legislative Update (Chad Marturano, Director of Legislative Affairs) (1:30PM)

6. Update on SARA (Heather DeLange, Academic Policy Officer) (2:00PM)

- Attorney General's Office opinion is the statute below gives the Commission (and the Department acting as its staff) adequate authority to enter into a reciprocity agreement that will allow CCHE/DHE to recognize the signatory states' authorization of accredited institutions that operate in their states to offer educational services beyond state boundaries, including in Colorado.

23-2-103.1(4): *The commission may negotiate and enter into interstate reciprocity agreements with other states if, in the judgment of the commission, the agreements do not obligate a private college or university or seminary or religious training institution to comply with standards or requirements that exceed the standards and requirements specified in this article and the agreements will assist in accomplishing the purposes of this article.*

- Awaiting confirmation from WICHE that DHE's 2 current student complaint policies ([CCHE Academic Affairs Policy I, T](#) and [Division of Private Occupational Schools rules & regs](#)) will satisfy SARA.
- Next step is for Colorado to complete the state application.

Ian sent the following questions to Rhonda at WICHE on 1-15-2014. Responses are in red:

- a. Could we better define the role of the DHE/CCHE vs. institution vs. WICHE in resolving/investigating student complaints? See my explanation above and attached. DHE's relationship is with the institutions and there will be no appeal path to WICHE. DHE will need to keep a record of complaints that come to you, and will report a summary to WICHE (data group has yet to convene to decide what information we will collect).
- b. What is the hierarchy or steps in making decisions and elevating complaint/investigation to next level (e.g., back to institution, to DHE, to WICHE)? What are the triggers to move to next level? Remember these are only complaints from students outside Colorado who are taking online courses from a Colorado institution. Whatever triggers you use now to hear a complaint would still apply. DHE will have the ultimate decision, but you would obviously work with the institution to encourage a good outcome.
- c. Is DHE's Role to define or check for quality or to ensure IHE is following its own policies/procedures? The latter. But if a complaint arises, and the IHE has not applied the SARA standards, DHE's role is to make sure it does. DHE can overrule an IHE with regard to whether a SARA standard has been violated. You will need a process to hear complaints from students, which I presume you have already (that's how we at CC system used to get complaints forwarded to us from Maia, yes?)
- d. What can we reasonably expect of a student who files a complaint? Can DHE ask them to provide documentation that they followed the IHE's policy/procedures first and what was result? Yes. WICHE does not tell you how to do this, but just requires that you have a process (also a federal requirement). It makes sense that the student should exhaust all processes internal to the institution first.
- e. What do we say to students who file complaints that can't be resolved? Alan says about half the student complaints he received in Oregon were completely bogus. That is, the student was upset, but had no valid claim. The word "resolve" doesn't mean the complaint was resolved to the student's satisfaction. It means the complaint was concluded using the proper processes. If DHE believes the institution handled the complaint properly then you can consider the complaint resolved.

7. Public Backlash against Common Core State Standards/Colorado Academic Standards

- 45 states (including Colorado) and DC have adopted CCSS in Mathematics and English Language Arts (www.corestandards.org/)
- The CCSS are embedded in Colorado's Academic Standards (<http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Academics/P20/resource/StandardsFAQ.pdf>).
- Faculty support for the standards would help. Resources include a blog (<http://isupportthecommoncore.net/>), Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ISupportTheCommonCore>), and twitter feed (@isupportccss).
- Melissa Colman, PhD, Executive Director, Teaching and Learning Unit at CDE (Colman_M@cde.state.co.us) is seeking to identify supporters of the Common Core within the higher ed community so that CDE may engage them in its communications efforts. Can you assist with this?

AC asked for information from CDE on any meetings planned for this. What is CDE's strategy? DHE will follow up with CDE.

8. Revision of gtPathways Content and Competencies

- DHE and GE Council will convene faculty who teach GT-CO1, 2 & 3 courses, as well as College Algebra, Math for Liberal Arts, and Intro to Statistics courses at the April 18, 2014 Faculty-to-Faculty conference to begin considering a revision of the content criteria and competencies for those courses only.
- Faculty will build off the alignment work currently being wrapped up in the P20 Regional Partnerships (faculty and high school teachers), which are examining areas of misalignment from high school to freshman year English Language Arts and mathematics courses.
- This fits into the degree completion agenda by helping to define guided degree pathways with guaranteed transfer. See: <http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/Students.html>
AC requested this information on DHE's website be captured in a 3 minute video that's "friendly" for high school students and families. Ian is following up on this.
AC requested stats on website traffic. Ian will follow up.

9. Common Advanced Placement Exam Cut Scores

- GE Council members will explore if all schools can agree on common AP exam cut scores. Please support them in this work. [see handout: *Exploring Common AP Cut Scores Letter from Lt Gov.pdf*]

10. CCHE Policy I, L: Statewide Transfer Policy [see handout: *i-partl_revision_2014-01-06_IKM.docx*]

- Will be on Commission's March 7, 2014 agenda for approval.
- It has already been vetted by GE Council and advisors. Feel free to distribute and have folks respond directly to ian.macgillivray@dhe.state.co.us

11. Supplemental Academic Instruction

- For the 4-year institutions, please bring an update on your campus's progress towards offering SAI.
- Save the date: SAI conference April 17, 2014 (the day before Faculty-to-Faculty Conference).
AC requested DHE invite to this faculty who will teach SAI, Dept. Chairs and writers of the proposals.

12. Items from HLC State Agency Workshop, November 6-7, 2013

- Heather DeLange attended on behalf of DHE. Just a few items to share.
- Guidance to Institutions and Peer Reviewers Regarding Dual Credit [see: *HLC DRAFT Guidance on Dual Credit.pdf*]. Of special note are drawbacks on top of pg. 2.
 - a) In Colorado we call this Concurrent Enrollment.
 - b) Discussion on the importance of National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP) standards. See <http://www.nacep.org/accreditation/standards/>
 - c) Oklahoma requires dual credit courses be delivered elsewhere than the high school so students get a different experience rather than "just another high school class."
- Prior Learning
 - a) HLC is trying to be compatible and not a barrier.
 - b) Acknowledged that program accreditors seemingly have hurdles in place but they are not trying to place barriers to innovation. Noted that often when barriers are perceived, they are something the accreditors don't have much opinion about.
 - c) HLC did block an "innovative idea" of a for-profit school because of the initial findings that indicated lack of quality assurance.

Concerns expressed about quality of instruction and curricular content for Concurrent Enrollment courses taught by adjuncts at high schools.
NACEP's 2015 National Conference will be in Denver.

13. Other Business?