

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
April 6, 2006**

Chairperson Terry Farina called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Commissioners Terry Farina, Judy Altenberg, Ray Baker, Richard Garcia, Richard Ramirez, Edward Robinson, Greg Stevinson and James Stewart were present. Commissioners Joel Farkas, Dean Quamme and Judy Weaver were excused. Commission Staff members attending were Jenna Langer, Matt Gianneschi, Vicki Leal, Andy Carlson and Heather DeLange. Advisory Council Member Stuart Hilwig was in attendance.

Dr. Christine Johnson, President of the Community College of Denver, welcomed the Commissioners to the Auraria Campus. Dr. Johnson congratulated Jenna Langer on her appointment as Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and stated the institutions housed on the Auraria Campus want to collaborate on higher education issues that face our State to ensure students success.

Chairman Farina introduced Jenna Langer as the nominated Executive Director of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Ms. Langer said it was an honor to serve the Commission in this capacity and looks forward to continue the work of CCHE, refine the College Opportunity Fund program and work on the College in Colorado campaign.

Mr. Stewart motioned to approve the March 2, 2006, minutes with a second by Ms. Altenberg. Mr. Hilwig offered a correction noting the last sentence of paragraph 3 on page 4 should be stricken. Mr. Stewart motioned to approve with the minutes as corrected and Ms. Altenberg seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

Mr. Garcia announced the Colorado Statewide Parent Coalition is holding its 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Colorado Statewide Parent Involvement Conference in Keystone, Colorado. At prior meetings, institutions of higher education have been present. He invited all institutions have recruitment booths since this is the largest Hispanic parent involvement conference in the State. Mr. Garcia will send an e-mail invitation to the Presidents of Higher Education Institutions.

There were no chair or advisory reports or public comment.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

**PRESENTATION BY PAUL LINGENFELTER, PRESIDENT, SHEEO:** Dr. Paul Lingenfelter gave a presentation on the state of Colorado Higher Education. Every year SHEEO puts together data from all 50 states and compares the condition of higher education, the cost of education and looks at the returns to degree for each state. Colorado is one of the best-educated states in the country, only Massachusetts has a higher number of adults who hold a bachelors degree. Dr. Lingenfelter pointed out that appropriations in the State of Colorado are much lower than the national average. Colorado is 47% below the national average in state funding. Mr. Farina asked Dr. Lingenfelter to offer his

view of the implications of this trend. Dr. Lingenfelter said that the implications are pretty obvious. He thinks the people of Colorado will pay the price both in terms of the opportunity for its citizens and the stature of higher education in the state unless this trend is turned around. Mr. Hilwig asked what Dr. Lingenfelter attributes to the cause of this accelerating decline in state support for higher education. Dr. Lingenfelter said that part of it is enrollment demand, also a demographic bulge that will continue to add to the enrollment demand over the next several years. The recession of 2000 is a part of the cause and also the ratcheting effect of TABOR. Mr. Farina said that the ratcheting effect of TABOR exacerbated the trend. Historically, the state of Colorado's state support was not all caused by the ratchet effect. Mr. Stevinson asked if Dr. Lingenfelter has looked at ways in which there can be a change in delivery. How efficient are our campuses, facilities? Dr. Lingenfelter said that one of the biggest ways to improve efficiency is to improve student preparation. He said technology needs to be used to improve both the efficiency and instruction; programs need to be designed to help students get through more efficiently. However, some things that are being used now to reduce costs are reducing value. Institutions need to find ways to be more productive. Mr. Stevinson said, that with the pushback that the Commission is receiving from K-12 schools on admission standards, the higher education institutions are educating the same student twice when there isn't enough money to educate them once. The money needs to be spent more efficiently. Mr. Farina said that the future economy is tied to higher education and somehow the public has not yet grasped that concept. To view Dr. Lingenfelter's presentation please go to <http://www.state.co.us/cche/agenda/agenda06/apr06/apr06iia-COprofile.pdf>.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF DEGREE PROGRAMS WITH LOW ENROLLMENT AND RECOMMENDATION OF DISCONTINUANCE TO GOVERNING BOARDS:** Dr. Gianneschi stated, subsequent to Commissioner Action at the November, 2006, meeting, letters were sent to Adams State College Board of Trustees and Colorado State University-Pueblo's Board of Governors and the respective Academic Affairs Officers requesting Board action on low-enrollment chemistry degree programs. Both governing bodies choose to exempt the programs. Pursuant to Commission policy, institutions can exempt up to five programs that are considered critical to the Role and Mission of the institution.

Mr. Garcia asked Dr. Gianneschi what could be done to attract students to these programs. Mr. Hilwig stated that high schools need to do more to enhance interest in science/math and students at Adams State College usually take the one required science/math course in their senior year. Mr. Stewart added that students need to go in to college challenged and that challenge needs to be created in the K-12 system.

Mr. Baker motioned for approval of the action item and Mr. Robinson seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

**PHASE III ELEMENTARY EDUCATION ARTICULATION AGREEMENT:** Dr. Gianneschi provided a historical summary of the agreement and requested that the item pass conditionally pending submission of the remaining 19 guaranteed courses for guaranteed transfer. Conditional approval ensures that the student can be advised appropriately prior to their transfer.

Mr. Stewart asked if conditional approval would put pressure on the institutions to comply with that request and Dr. Gianneschi said it would and the information was first requested a year ago. Some of the institutions have complied and others have not.

Mr. Baker added this is an old issue, driven by the students' frustration as to what transfers and what does not. This issue compromises the students. The guaranteed transfer portion of this agreement must be required. It needs to be put together keeping in mind it is the students who we serve. Among the students, transferability is the number one issue, even above cost. The student wants to know if they are getting their value, will it transfer and does it work for their degree. Mr. Stevinson asked how many institutions have approved this agreement and have they identified the additional 19 credit hours. Dr. Gianneschi said that all schools have agreed to the terms of the agreement but have not been requested to identify the 19 credit hours. Mr. Stevinson asked how long it would take to get completed and Dr. Gianneschi it should be completed by June. Mr. Stevinson would like a monthly update and made the comment that the Commission should focus on those institutions that are dragging out the process.

Mr. Stewart motioned for approval of the item and Mr. Stevinson seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

**STATE GUARANTEED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES REVIEW CYCLE IV, ROUND I:**

Dr. Gianneschi said the most recent gt Pathways course review was on February 24, 2006. Of the 126 courses nominated for statewide guarantee transfer, 66 were recommended, 53 were denied and 7 were deferred. He asked the Commissioners to approve the 66 courses recommended for approval into the curriculum.

Ms. Leal said that the deferments were necessary because some submissions were incorrectly copied and the failure to have appropriate, content specific faculty reviewers for nominated areas. All of the deferred courses will be reviewed on April 14.

Ms. Altenberg asked what the primary reasons were that some of the courses weren't recommended. Ms. Leal said faculty reviewers are strict in their application of expectations for the content and competency criteria and what the syllabus and nomination form provide. Some courses are not recommended for substantive reasons, others for technical reasons. Another reason for the denial of a course is that, in some of the larger content areas, the faculty felt that a particular course did not fit into that specific content area.

Mr. Stevinson asked how University of Colorado (CU) and Colorado State University (CSU) were doing getting their nominations through the system because he did not see many of their courses on the list. Ms. Leal said it was agreed that CU-Boulder and CSU-Ft. Collins would submit the majority of courses in the Fall of 2006 and a handful of courses will be reviewed in April. Mr. Stevinson said that at the time of signing the performance contracts, each had 400-500 courses that were not guaranteed transfer and wondered if those had been considered for guarantee transfer. Have the students been notified that these courses are not guaranteed transferable and, if not, when will they be told? Ms. Leal said half of those courses would be reviewed and guaranteed transferable by December 2006.

Mr. Stevinson said that the institutions should let the students know when they are registering for these courses that they may not be guaranteed transfer courses. Mr. Hilwig said that this is another example that the market model doesn't work and students need to realize that they are probably going to lose some credits. Ms. Langer said that the process has been to provide students information and assurance particular courses are guaranteed to transfer.

Mr. Stevinson motioned to approve the agenda item and Mr. Baker seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Farina expressed the Commission's appreciation to the faculty participating in the gt Pathways process. Dr. Gianneschi concurred with Mr. Farina's accolades and recognized Ms. Leal for her hard work and effort on the project.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

**TEACHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION – COLORADO COLLEGE:** Dr. Gianneschi and Dr. Whaley reviewed Colorado College's teacher preparation programs for continued alignment/compliance with the State's performance measures. The program is in compliance with those measures.

**TEACHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION – UNIVERSITY OF DENVER:** Dr. Gianneschi and Dr. Whaley reviewed the University of Denver's teacher preparation programs for continued alignment/compliance with the State's performance measures. The program is in compliance with those measures.

**DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT RECLASSIFICATION – NEWMAN UNIVERSITY:** Dr. Gianneschi said that Newman University is a Jesuit School located in Kansas that has been operating a Master of Social Work in Colorado Springs for a year. The Higher Learning Commission submitted a letter stating that they will not be doing an on-site review because the Colorado program is identical to the Kansas program that is deemed to be in full compliance with their requirements. Dr. Gianneschi requests a reclassification from a category 1-A school to a category 1 school, which is a fully authorized institution.

There was no public or Commissioner discussion on this item.

Mr. Stewart moved to approve all three Consent items and Mr. Robinson seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **WRITTEN REPORTS – NO DISCUSSION**

The 2005-06 Enrollment report is in the process of incorporating more updated information. This report will be published in the near future.

There was no discussion and no action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned.