

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION  
June 1, 2006**

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

Dr. Steve Jordan, President of Metropolitan State College of Denver, welcomed the Commissioners to the Auraria Campus on behalf of all campuses that share the Auraria Higher Education Center. Dr. Jordan updated and informed the Commissioners on programs and institutional highlights at Metropolitan State College of Denver.

Commissioners Terry Farina, Judy Altenberg, Joel Farkas, Rich Garcia, Dean Quamme, Rick Ramirez, Ed Robinson, Greg Stevinson, James Stewart and Judy Weaver were present. Commissioner Ray Baker was excused. Commission Staff members attending were Jenna Langer, Matt Gianneschi, Diane Lindner and Heather DeLange. Advisory Council Members Stuart Hilwig, Bob Bacon, Keith King, Nancy Todd and Sue Windels were in attendance.

Commissioner Stewart motioned to approve the May 4, 2006 minutes with a second by Commissioner Robinson. The minutes were passed unanimously.

There were no chair or commissioner reports.

**ADVISORY REPORT:** Stuart Hilwig said the spring meeting of the Colorado Faculty Advisory Committee was in April at Community College of Aurora. The general feeling of the meeting was optimistic with the passing of Referendum C last fall. Two concerns were addressed by the committee. The first is a concern about recouping the loss of the cost of living adjustments in the past few years. The second concern was about the growing need for remediation, the concern is felt especially among junior and community colleges.

Senator Windels expressed her thanks for the meeting being held in the Denver Metro area to allow for accommodation for legislators. She expressed the importance of the link between the legislature and the Commissioners.

Executive Director Langer thanked Judy Altenberg for her term on the Commission. Ms. Langer said what a tremendous addition she has been to the Commission and expressed her gratitude for her time. Ms. Altenberg said what an experience serving on the Commission has been.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** George Walker, University of Colorado (CU) graduate and candidate for CU Board of Regents, commented on the need for more funding for public institutions.

## **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE BY JENNA LANGER, CATHY WANSTRATH AND LARRY HUDSON:** Ms. Langer provided a brief summary of the changes in Higher Education funding. Ms. Wanstrath and Mr. Hudson highlighted some of the House and Senate Bills that are salient to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education.

**FY 06-07 FINANCIAL AID ALLOCATION BY DIANE LINDNER:** Ms. Lindner's presentation focused on issues the Commission staff addressed while working on the 2006-2007 financial aid allocation methodology. Annually, the Commission has the responsibility to approve the allocations for state funded financial aid to institutions. Need based aid was increased by \$9.5 M for FY 2006-2007. The need-based aid allocation calculation uses actual tuition and room and board costs and standardized costs for other allowable expenses, deducts the family's expected contribution with an end result of student need. Each institution is allocated its share of the appropriation according to its proportional share of student need statewide.

A model has been developed by staff that makes the existing allocation formula more accurate and creates separate undergraduate funding and graduate funding. The model is more accurate because it provides baseline funding at 75% of the prior year allocation and funds graduate students at the amount they have actually been awarded in the past. There is a disparity between the formula funding graduate students and what is actually awarded to the graduate students. There is about a 14% need level calculated in the allocation formula while the actual awards are at a 6.56% level. A CCHE staff review of other state-funded financial aid programs found that 60% exclude graduate students from receiving grants entirely.

Strong support from institutions has been offered to split the Colorado need-based aid funds, one allocated for undergraduate need and one allocated for graduate need at the proportion at which institutions have awarded the graduate need, at approximately the level of awards.

The discussion with institutions will continue as the Commission staff considers financial aid reform for the FY 2007-2008 year. To view the presentation, go to <http://www.state.co.us/cche/agenda/agenda06/jun06/jun06iib.pdf>.

Senator Windels asked if student fees are included in the calculation. Ms. Lindner said that the calculation includes tuition and fees. Ms. Windels asked if CCHE analyzed the amount of debt that students have at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Ms. Lindner said that debt has been analyzed nationally and findings show that the biggest impact in tuition pricing comes in admission and retention of low-income undergraduate students. Ms. Langer added other sources of aid are available to award to graduate level students.

Senator Bacon said Colorado needs to make sure that the research universities are competitive with other research universities around the country. Ms. Langer said that CCHE is working on refining the mandated cost model and the cost of education and will put together a fall presentation after working with the institutions.

Mr. Stevinson asked if CCHE researched what the impact would be if graduate level students were not funded and what the difference would be in available funding for undergraduates. Mr. Stevinson would like CCHE to look at the impact on the state's funding undergraduate financial aid only.

Representative King asked if CCHE has researched funding specific employment needs in the state to help the economy. Ms. Weaver added that a responsibility of institutions of higher education is to respond to the needs of the economy and job market.

Mr. Garcia asked if the institutions already have the ability to designate financial aid to specific colleges for workforce development needs. Ms. Langer said the Commission has discretion in setting policy in this area. To date, the institution has broad discretion on how they award the money to the students. As financial aid reform is discussed, the Commission could adopt policies and direct money to specific workforce development needs.

Representative Todd added that she doesn't want to see financial aid support focused only on undergraduate students so that the graduate students leave the state because then the reinvestment to the State of Colorado does not exist. Front loading the undergraduate student cannot occur at the expense of the graduate students. Students need incentives to stay in the State of Colorado.

Stuart Hilwig said the institutions are responding to the specific needs of the area with various programs. The market is shaping the programs and the needs of the students.

**ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS GRANT PROGRAM AND PROPOSED COLORADO MATCH BY JENNA LANGER:** Ms. Langer gave a brief review of the federal grant programs. The federal government has launched two new grant programs that are tied to the Pell grant for low-income students. The two programs are the Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG) program and the Science and Mathematics to Retain Talent (SMART) grant program. Academic Competitiveness grants are available to students in their first and second year with a requirement of a rigorous high school curriculum. The goal of the ACG program is to ensure students are academically prepared for college. The SMART grant program focuses on much needed majors in Math, Science, Engineering, Technology and critical Foreign Languages.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**REAUTHORIZATION OF THE COLORADO/NEW MEXICO RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT AND APPROVAL OF FY07 INSTITUTIONAL ALLOCATIONS:** Matt Gianneschi gave an overview of the reciprocity agreement and mentioned the only change recommended to the contract provides clarification to the institutions that they can break-up FTE allocation.

Mr. Stewart motioned to approve and Mr. Stevinson seconded the motion, the item passed unanimously.

The second part of the agenda item is a charge to CCHE to annually establish the allocation of FTE to each of the participating institutions.

Mr. Stewart motioned to approve the second part of the agenda item, Ms. Weaver seconded and the item was passed unanimously.

**COLORADO ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS GRANT PROGRAM MATCH:** Ms. Langer said an additional \$800,000 for pre-collegiate scholarships was received this year in the budget. Staff recommends directing these funds to create a Colorado match to the ACG program with an additional requirement that students participate in eligible pre-collegiate programs. This initiative targets low-income students, provides additional funds who are academically prepared to enter college and who are armed with the success skills from the pre-collegiate programs.

Mr. Farkas motioned to approve and Ms. Altenberg seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**AUTHORIZATION OF AN ENDORSEMENT PROGRAM IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY-SPECIALIST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT DENVER AND HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER:** Dr. Gianneschi gave an overview of the program proposal. Ms. Weaver motioned to approve and Ms. Altenberg seconded the motion. There was no further testimony and the item passed unanimously.

**TEACHER EDUCATION REAUTHORIZATION: ADAMS STATE COLLEGE:** Dr. Gianneschi offered a historical account for teacher education reauthorization procedures. He mentioned the State Board of Education approved all action items that were taken to the State Board but offered a one-year probationary approval for this reauthorization. This probation period will allow the board to review the institution's reading programs. Because Adams State does have a component within the program that has reading within the endorsement areas, they are subject to this one-year provisional rule. Staff recommendation is to approve this auth for one-year and reauthorize the program for five years once the State Board has done the same.

Mr. Stevinson motioned to approve with a second by Mr. Farkas.

Ms. Todd asked if there was a reason given for the hesitancy of going forward for more than one year. Dr. Gianneschi said Commissioner Maloney dictated a one-year approval for all programs with a reading component.

The item was unanimously passed.

Mr. Farina requested CCHE to report back in one-year after the provisional approval has expired.

**REVISED LIST OF PROGRAM EXEMPTED FROM THE CCHE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICY I-G: DISCONTINUANCE OF ACADEMIC DEGREES WITH LOW DEMAND:** Dr. G provided

an update on the exemption list. The B.S. in Physics program from UCCS was removed from the exemption list and requested their B.S. in Medical Science be added to the list of exempt programs.

Mr. Stewart motioned to approve, Mr. Stevinson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Ms. Weaver said it's disappointing to see the programs that are currently exempted due to low demand are the science programs.

Dr. Gianneschi added that Adams State College added a Theater program to their exemption list. This particular program has previously been on the list and removed.

**DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT RECLASSIFICATION-SPIRITUAL PATHS INSTITUTE:** Dr. Gianneschi offered a recap on the original approval of SPI as probationary degree auth act institution. This reclassification allows them to begin enrolling students.

Mr. Robinson motioned to approve, Mr. Stewart seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**STATE GUARANTEED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES REVIEW CYCLE IV, ROUND II:** Dr. G provided a summary of the last course review cycle that occurred on April 14.

Mr. Stevinson moved to approve and Mr. Farkas seconded.

Mr. Quamme asked what the rule is on how many times a course can be brought to the Commission for approval. Dr. Gianneschi said institutions can submit a course once, may resubmit within 6 months but thereafter must wait at least 6 months until submit for the third and final time within the period of their performance contract.

## **WRITTEN REPORTS – NO DISCUSSION**

### **REPORT ON OUT-OF-STATE/OUT-OF-COUNTRY INSTRUCTION**

There was no discussion and no action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.