

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
COLORADO COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
October 5, 2006**

Chairperson Terry Farina called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Mr. Tim Foster, President of Mesa State College, welcomed the Commissioners to Grand Junction and the Mesa State Campus. He gave an overview and history of Mesa State and the impact of the college on the community and Western Colorado in general. Mesa State serves a wide range of students and the college donates many dollars to aid students in addition to the government financial aid program. Mr. Foster spoke of some of the difficulties on operating a college in a small town and focused on what Mesa State does in order to overcome those difficulties and how Mesa is succeeding in those efforts.

Commissioners Terry Farina, Richard Garcia, Dean Quamme, Ed Robinson and Judy Weaver were in attendance. Commissioners Ray Baker and James Stewart called in to the meeting and Commissioners Joel Farkas and Greg Stevinson were excused. Colorado Commission on Higher Education staff members present were Jenna Langer, Diane Lindner, Matt Gianneschi, John Karakoulakis, and Andy Carlson.

Commissioner Farina suggested postponing the election of a new chair. Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve, Commissioner Quamme seconded and the motioned was passed unanimously.

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

Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve the revision of the June 1, 2006 minutes with a second by Commissioner Quamme and the minutes with the revision were passed unanimously.

There was no chair report.

COMMISSIONER REPORT: Judy Weaver commented on her tenure on the Colorado Alignment Council. She provided a historical recount of the executive order the Governor ordered in October 2005 and provided a quick report of the study findings. For further information on the Alignment Council's findings, please go to: <http://www.fund4colorado.org/pdf/WKARoundtableReport.pdf>

Jim Stewart commented on the Alignment council's findings and said that Colorado is the active lead on this topic and preparing students for postsecondary education and the workforce.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS: Executive Director Langer thanked Terry Farina for his term on the Commission and expressed gratitude for the entire CCHE staff and all of the

institutions around the state of Colorado. Commissioner Weaver added what a great diplomat Commissioner Farina is and applauds his advocacy for higher education.

ADVISORY REPORT: Mark Malone, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, is the new faculty advisory council member. Mark was elected by Colorado Faculty Advisory Committee (CFAC) and is replacing Stu Hilwig from Adams State College. He gave an overview at what issues CFAC is looking and how CFAC is dealing with those issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT: George Walker, University of Colorado (CU) graduate and candidate for CU Board of Regents, commented on Margaret Spellings September report. His comments focused on the issue of race and ethnicity in higher education. Shannon Robinson, Mesa State, spoke about financial aid and how Mesa has been able to customize her financial aid package and for the Commission to take that into consideration when looking at financial aid reform. Anthony Thompson, Mesa State, a GOS student urges the commission to place themselves into the students' shoes and keep that idea in mind when making a decision on the financial aid reform. Janett Nevanez, Mesa State, spoke on financial aid and its relationship to minority students.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

2007-2008 CCHE BUDGET AND HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCE STUDY: Diane Lindner spoke about the budget strategies that are proposed for the budget year 2007-08. She pointed out that Colorado is the lowest state in terms of percent change of appropriation per FTE. In terms of growth of total education revenues per FTE, there are only 5 states lower than Colorado. The budget process was approached with those statistics in mind. The mandated cost model has been used in the past and it has been viewed as rewarding those institutions that charge the most for tuition. A study is being conducted and will be released in the next couple of weeks. The study is looking at different components regarding the state of Colorado, keeping and reforming the mandated cost model, and our unique approach to financial aid and stipends. Jenna Langer commented on the budget building process and keeping structure when looking at building the budget. Specific modeling is being conducted for the Governor's office. Commissioner Farina asked where the shortfalls would come from and Ms. Lindner answered from the tuition and fees. Ms. Langer added that the reason why this study was embarked upon was to bring consistency into funding and the process.

FINANCIAL AID REFORM UPDATE: Ms. Langer reiterated that the goal of the reform started first with students and how we can get money to all level one students, how we can get financial aid dollars to the neediest students. Issues such as transparency, transferability, and equity were all looked at to make this reform as concise and to ensure the model addressed all aspects of the goals. Ms. Langer clarified that institutions will still have flexibility for their students on the financial aid packages. The idea is to set a minimum amount and therefore the level one student can count on that amount of money, no matter which institution they attend. Marketing is the other piece to the reform. CCHE is working with institutions on how to market, describe and inform students regarding this new model. The institutions will receive one flat payment from the State for each level one student (150% of

Pell eligibility). The amounts are determined by cost of attendance and index to how their cost of attendance differs between each type of institution (e.g., Research Institution, Community College, Four-Year). There are about 50,000 level one students, many of whom do not receive any financial aid. The critical career funding for graduate students is the second piece of the reform. The graduate funding is separated from the rest based on a decision made by the Commission for 2006-07. This will fund graduate students who are enrolled in programs which are critical to the state of Colorado (SMART grant, health care and Colorado specific degree programs). The Graduation Bonus is the third part of the reform. This provides a bonus for each level one student who graduates with a certificate or undergraduate degree. This piece is contingent upon legislative funding appropriations.

Commissioner Weaver asked if the students have the proficiencies, knowledge or skill once they graduate. Revenue streams have the potential to water down quality. Can employability be looked at and not just graduation? Ms. Langer responded by saying that within the performance contracts there is an assessment tool to tie in with the graduation bonus.

Commissioner Quamme asked if the GOS scholarship will be rolled into the financial aid package. Ms. Lindner said that GOS has not been rolled in to the need based grant at this point.

John Cooney, CU System, commented on the movement toward the cost of attendance model. He believes that this is the right way to go but has an issue with the idea of using the average. This tends to overestimate costs in some areas and underestimate costs in other areas. CU would like to see the true need of graduate education considered in the allocation.

Alan Lamborn, CSU System, commented on how clear CCHE has been on what has and has not been accomplished in this process.

ACTION ITEMS

NEW AND CONTINUING STATE FUNDED CAPITAL PROJECTS FY 07-08: Ms. Lindner presented this agenda item as a result from the Capital Development Subcommittee meeting that occurred in September. A total of 41 projects have been reviewed and prioritized for a total of \$210 M of general fund dollars. See agenda item attachment for the recommendation breakdowns and project information.

Recommendation 1: UCCS Science/Engineering Building and notify the Capital Development Committee and the Joint Budget Committee that the project and the \$2 million CCFE appropriation for fiscal year 2006-07 has been approved. Commissioner Quamme motioned for approval, Commissioner Garcia seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

Recommendation 2: Waivers from Program Planning. Commissioner Quamme motioned with a second by Commissioner Garcia and the motioned was passed unanimously.

Recommendation 3: New Program Plans. Commissioner Quamme made the motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Weaver which passed unanimously.

Recommendation 4: Program Plan Amendments to modify previously approved programs plans. Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve with a second by Dean Quamme and the motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation 5: Approval of the priority list divided into two sections based on anticipated funding level of \$120 million and prioritized based on status as a continuation project, governing board priority, health and life safety issues, and programmatic improvements addressed in the project. Commissioner Quamme made the motion to remove the \$120 funding line due to it being an arbitrary funding level and also amend the divisions of the priority list and Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion. The motion was passed with one dissenting vote from Commissioner Baker. The prioritization is as follows: Level 1 Projects 1-9 are continuing projects; Projects 10-22 are primary priorities by the respective governing boards; Projects 23-31 are secondary priorities; and projects 32-40 are the remaining priorities of the governing boards.

Recommendation 6: Inclusion of the UCDHSC COP payment required by statute for fiscal year 2007-08 in the list of capital projects provided to the Capital Development Committee. Commissioner Weaver motioned for approval, seconded by Commissioner Garcia. The motion passed with one dissenting vote from Commissioner Baker.

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE 2005 FACILITIES MASTER PLAN: Ms. Lindner said the master plan was presented to the Fort Lewis governing board and approved in February 2006. She introduced Ed Baudage and Mark Gutt from Fort Lewis College to give an overview of the plan and detailed the process of developing the facility master plan. Mark Gutt detailed each of the five state funded projects listed in its five year capital construction plan. Commissioner Quamme motioned to approve, Commissioner Weaver seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY GRANTS POLICY (TAG GRANT): John Karakoulakis gave a brief background on the TAG grant. CCHE has been charged with taking the grant back from the Colorado Institute of Technology, which has dissolved, and administering it. He mentioned the priority of the fund dollars and what criteria the grantees must have. Commissioner Robinson motioned to approve and Commissioner Weaver seconded. Commissioner Quamme suggested expanding the criteria of the grant or insertion of a line item for state matching of the federal funds. Commissioner Weaver seconded Commissioner Quamme's amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

MODIFICATIONS TO ACADEMIC AFFAIRS POLICY I-P: TEACHER EDUCATION POLICY: Matt Gianneschi reviewed the modification of language drafted in the Teacher Education policy. Commissioner Weaver asked if the criteria could be defined for cooperating teachers, for example, a master's level teacher or a teacher who has demonstrated competencies. Commissioner Ramirez offered his agreement with Commissioner Weaver's request. Dr. Gianneschi said that these criteria are areas that CCHE staff evaluate on site visits. A formal review of coordinating teachers is in effect in the match up of teachers. He said the policy can be amended with a definition concerning expectations for qualified match up teachers. Commissioner Weaver motioned to approve with the directive for the November meeting with the additional language. Commissioner Quamme seconded and the motion was passed unanimously.

DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT – COLORADO UNIVERSITY OF COMMERCE, RIVENDELL COLLEGE, AND MINISTRIES TRAINING SYSTEM (CHURCH OF GOD): Matt Gianneschi described the Degree Authorization act and detailed the three institutions that are requesting permission to operate in the State of Colorado. Colorado University and Commerce and Rivendell College are recommended for preliminary authorization. This is a six-month authorization. Ministries Training System was brought to CCHE for approval which operates out of the Church of God. Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the agenda item and Commissioner Quamme seconded. Commissioner Weaver commented on how many institutions are coming to the State of Colorado and suggested looking at creating a policy to police the arrival of so many institutions. Dr. Gianneschi said that this is an issue that almost every state in the country is dealing with. The agenda item passed unanimously.

EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE IN COLORADO UNDER THE DEGREE AUTHORIZATION ACT: AMERICAN PATHWAYS UNIVERSITY; COLORADO INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY; SUMNER SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES; AND YORKTOWN UNIVERSITY: Dr. Gianneschi gave an overview of the accreditation process. Commissioner Weaver moved to approve with a second by Commissioner Robinson and the motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007: Ms. Langer pointed out that a January meeting has been cancelled to allow time for the new administration transition. If action needs to be taken immediately, a special teleconference could be called. Commissioner Quamme motioned to approve, Commissioner Robinson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

SURPLUS PROPERTY REPORT

TRANSFER REPORT

DISCONTINUANCE OF ADVERTISING BACHELOR’S DEGREE PROGRAM OFFERED BY THE ART INSTITUTE OF COLORADO AND OF TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY JOHNSON AND WALES UNIVERSITY

REPORT ON OUT-OF-STATE/OUT-OF-COUNTRY INSTRUCTION: Matt Gianneschi said that on page 2 of the agenda item, it reads Mesa State College and it should read Metropolitan State College of Denver.

COLORADO EDUCATION ALIGNMENT COUNCIL REPORT, EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There was no discussion and no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15.