

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON

### HIGHER EDUCATION

JULY 10, 2007

Chairman Ray Baker called the meeting to order at 9:15am.

Dr. Bill Scoggins, President of the Colorado School of Mines, welcomed the Commissioners and expressed his thanks for the continuous support of the School of Mines. Dr. Scoggins updated the Commission on programs and initiatives at the School of Mines along with infra-structure improvements.

Executive Director David Skaggs introduced the new Commissioners: Jill Brake from Pueblo, representing the 3<sup>rd</sup> congressional district; Patty Pacey, resident of Boulder, representing the 2<sup>nd</sup> congressional district; Mike Plachy from Centennial representing the 6<sup>th</sup> congressional district and noted that Greg Stevinson had been reappointed by the Governor.

Commissioners Ray Baker, Jill Brake, Patricia Pacey, Mike Plachy, Jim Polsfut, Ed Robinson, Joel Rosenstein, Greg Stevinson and James Stewart were present. Commissioner Richard Ramirez was excused. Advisory Committee members Representative Victor Mitchell, Senator Gail Schwartz and Robert Applegate were present. Advisory Committee members Representative Randy Fischer and Representative Nancy Todd were present by conference call. Advisory Committee Mark Malone was represented by Professor Wayne Artis. House Education Committee members Representative Mike Merrifield and Representative Judy Solano were present.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the June 7, 2007 minutes with a second by Commissioner Stewart. The motion passed unanimously.

**Chair Report:** Chairman Ray Baker reported the sub-committee on Capital Development is continuing to progress towards presentation to the Executive Director, the Commission and the Legislature.

**Executive Director Report:** Executive Director David Skaggs reported the Higher Education Summit was successful with agreement about a very broad set of goals for higher education involving financing and accountability, improvement and efficiency.

There were no Commissioner or Advisory Committee reports.

**Public Comment:** Jonathan Kurche, representing the Associated Students of Colorado (ASC), briefed the Commissioners on recent ASC activities, including a statewide Student Leadership Conference on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The conference goals include seminars with all the student leaders from across the state and forwarding nominations to the Commission for Robert Applegate's position on the CCHE Advisory Committee.

### PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, presented an update and review of HEAR 2010 as the Commission in March, 2006 had requested occur in this timeframe. All applicants to

Colorado's four year postsecondary institutions who graduate from high school in 2010 and later are required to meet Phase II of the Higher Education Admission Requirements (HEAR). HEAR 2010 consists of 18 academic units which are comprised of 4 units of English, 4 units of Mathematics (Algebra I and higher), 3 units of Natural Science, 3 units of Social Science, 2 units of Foreign Language and 2 units of Academic Electives.

Vicki Leal, Academic Policy Officer, presented a national policy context and reported on research done by the staff, along with the findings.

Matt McKeever, Director of Extended Studies, reported on the background of HEAR Phase I and II and the Colorado policy context, along with the policy initiatives and implications.

Dr. Carnahan presented the following proposed options:

Option A - Delay of Phase II Implementation to a date certain with a comprehensive review of admissions policy. Given the unknown efficacy of HEAR in reducing remediation, revise the Admission Standards Policy so that the Phase II of HEAR takes effect with those applicants who graduate from high school in 2012 (or a specified later year) and undertake a comprehensive review of admissions policy, including an analysis of the Phase I (2008) HEAR on enrollment, remediation, and retention.

Option B - Separate foreign language and mathematics components of Phase II Implementation with optional reduction in requirements or waiver process;

B1. Foreign language. Revise the Admission Standards Policy to eliminate the foreign language requirement; or replace the foreign language requirement with two years of electives; or retain the requirement but permit school districts to request a temporary waiver.

B2. Fourth year mathematics. Revise the Admission Standards Policy to eliminate the fourth year mathematics requirement; or replace the fourth year mathematics with one year of electives; or retain the requirement but permit school districts to request a temporary waiver.

If the Commission selects the waiver option, staff presumes that a school district would be required to demonstrate and certify its inability to meet the Phase II requirements. Staff recommends that the details of any waiver system be developed in cooperation with K-12 and higher education stakeholders.

Option C – Phase II Implementation in 2010; requirements aligned with institutional selectivity revise the Admission Standards Policy to adjust and align Phase II requirements with institutions' admissions selectivity. HEAR Phase II requirements would vary in the same manner as the current admissions policy in which minimum index requirements are based on the selectivity of the institution. Staff would work with a group of admissions officers and K-12 representatives to develop a recommendation for the requirements for each higher education institution.

Dwight Jones, Commissioner of the Department of Education, addressed the Commission to express his support for adding rigor to college admissions standards and better preparing high

school students. He also expressed his discomfort with raising the bar without “taking a hard look” at the unintended consequences of doing so. Commissioner Jones was in favor of moving forward with the 2010 with some modifications and supported waivers where justified for specific districts.

Dr. Gerry Difford, Assistant Commissioner of Regional Services, CDE, expressed his opinion that the K-12 community had been left out of the HEAR discussions in the past. CDE recommends: 1) CCHE collaborate with CASB, the P-20 Council and the state and local boards of education; 2) not requiring a higher level math beyond Algebra II (calculus, trigonometry and analytic geometry) but allowing other mathematics courses (statistics, business math, and accounting); 3) reduce the foreign language requirement to one year.

Representative Mike Merrifield, chair of the Colorado House of Representatives Education Committee, urged more emphasis on the arts and creative thinking rather than math and science.

Ken Delay, representing the Colorado Association of School Boards, noted that the school districts around the state require resources and information. He said that CASB agreed with Commissioner Jones’ suggestions.

Gerald Keefe, Superintendent of Kit Carson R1 School District and Chairman of the Colorado Rural Schools Caucus, asked for a postponement of the HEAR Phase II entrance requirements to 2012.

Dr Stephen Bohrer, Superintendent of the Holyoke School District, asked for a postponement of the HEAR Phase II based on the resource issues rural districts face.

Representative Robert Witwer, Colorado General Assembly, urged the Commission not to weaken or further delay the implementation of HEAR Phase II. If the requirements are to be rolled back, he asked that waivers be granted in a targeted way.

Martie Semmer stated that the State World Language Advisory Committee, which she Co-Chairs, is in favor of 2010 HEAR across the board.

Tim Gianulis, representing the Colorado Art and Education Association and the Colorado Music Education Association, expressed the concern that more math courses will reduce the arts and music courses students will take. He supported Option B1 with an increase of the number of electives students will be allowed to take.

Rona Wilensky, Principal of New Vista Valley High School in the Boulder Valley School District, asked the Commission to consider the option of stopping at HEAR 2008. She felt that HEAR 2010 will affect who in the state attends a four year college and will also affect high school teachers who may unwittingly lower the standards for their courses to comply with the requirements.

Matt Gianneschi, Senior Policy Analyst from Governor Ritter’s office, discussed the role the

Governor's P-20 Council is playing in preparation and transition to post-secondary education and options that are being considered by the Governor and the Council

George Walker expressed his opinion it is disingenuous to discuss raising admissions standards when Colorado is 48<sup>th</sup> or 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of public funding for education.

Raul Cardena, Jr., Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Access at the University of Northern Colorado, was in favor of maintaining the high standards of HEAR 2010 but also providing flexibility for students coming from different school districts and different backgrounds and experiences.

Kevin MacLennan, Director of Admissions and the University of Colorado-Boulder, offered further comments on the three options presented.

Geri Anderson, Provost of and representing the Colorado Community College System, supported Option A (delay of HEAR 2010 implementation until 2012) because of the difficulty in addressing all the competing pieces of legislation and policy adopted over the past two years.

Linda Curran, Acting Provost of Metropolitan State College of Denver, supported the delay (Option A) until 2012 due to the disparate socioeconomic impact of HEAR on Metro State's open admissions policy for students 20 and older.

John Sowell, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Western State College, expressed support for Option A so that more can be learned from the implementation of the HEAR 2008 standards and we have more opportunity to work with the P-20 Council.

Russ Meyer, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for Colorado State University-Pueblo, supported deferring the implementation of HEAR 2010 for at least two years to give the P-20 Council time to make their recommendations.

Alan Lamborn, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs at Colorado State College-Fort Collins and Chief Academic Officer of the CSU system, supported Option A, due to possible negative outcomes, but advocated an 18 unit requirement beginning in 2010.

After discussion among the Commissioners, Commissioner Stewart moved to approve Option B of the HEAR 2010 requirements with the modifications to include a fourth year of math that does not need to be higher than Algebra II and to require only one year of foreign language. Commissioner Stevinson seconded the motion.

Commissioners Baker, Plachy, Robinson, Rosenstein, Stevinson and Stewart voted in favor of passing the amended item. Commissioners Brake, Pacey and Polsfut voted against passing the amended item.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm.