

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
March 1, 2007**

Chairman Ray Baker called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Dr. Larry Penley welcomed the Commissioners to the Fort Collins campus and expressed his pride in the CSU system. Colorado State University leads the state in the number of graduates who are native resident Coloradans and is also the largest source of science, math and engineering students in the state.

Commissioners Ray Baker, Rick Ramirez, Ed Robinson, James Stewart, and Judy Weaver were present. Commissioners Joel Rosenstein and Greg Stevinson participated via telephone and Commissioners Dean Quamme and Richard Garcia were excused.

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the February 2, 2007 minutes with a second by Commissioner Robinson. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no chair or commissioner reports.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** Executive Director Skaggs gave an informal update to the Commission on items on which the members should be advised. The Governor and the OSPB have given the go ahead for a capital construction task force with members of the commission and outside experts.

The department is working with legislators on a proposal that monies not expended for purposes of statutory TAG grants would spill over into a broader higher education research fund. This broader research fund would be available to match federal grants.

The Higher Education Summit is proceeding and the date has been set for June 8-9.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT:** Robert Applegate, Student Representative, Colorado School of Mines, introduced Blake Gibson from Colorado State University. Mr. Gibson said 15 schools, including four-year and community colleges, have collaborated to create the Associated Students of Colorado. This will provide a centralized group in which to communicate internally as well as lobby externally for increases in funding, etc. A group convened on the Capitol steps Monday March 5 to ask for a 9% increase in funding.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** There was no public comment.

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION**

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:** John Karakoulakis gave an update on various legislative bills that will affect or potentially affect the Colorado Department of Higher Education and the institutions. Mr. Karakoulakis also gave an update on Capital Construction projects. The top

ten items on the Department's list were all approved for funding. All approved projects, including other state agency projects, are estimated to cost around \$315 M.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENT GRANTS:** John Karakoulakis presented the agenda item to the Commissioners. The RFP was sent out in October of 2006 and the Department received 20 proposals. Each proposal was reviewed 3 times, by Department of Higher Education Staff, Colorado Department of public and health environment and the Office of Economic Development, the Governor's policy office or various college professors on a referral. Based on the peer reviews, four proposals are recommended to be fully funded.

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve the proposals and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Weaver. The motion passed unanimously.

**GOVERNOR'S OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PHASE OUT:** Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer, and Tobin Bliss, Financial Aid Director described what the Governor's Opportunity Scholarship program is and why the Department is recommending a phase-out of the program. They explained that, while it is a good program, it provides exceptional levels of support for a narrow number of students. The phase out would enable an increase in the basic award for all eligible students, and that students already awarded these scholarships will be continue to receive them through a normal four-year enrollment.

Commissioner Stewart asked if this phase out will change the composition of the recipients. Ms. Lindner said it wouldn't. Commissioner Stewart asked how we would know if there is any minority recognition from the institution. Ms. Lindner said each institution has their own minority recognition access program but there haven't been any race-based financial aid programs since 1999.

Commissioner Weaver asked what assurances we have that the funding, \$8 M, will continue after four years. Ms. Lindner said the Department would ask the legislature for authority to transfer the funds into the need-based aid program.

Mr. Bliss noted that the Financial Aid Advisory Committee, made up of Financial Aid Directors of Institutions around the state, has been talking about phasing this program out for several years and supports the recommendation to phase out the program and channel more money to more students through a larger financial aid allocation. Institutions will still have ultimate control of financial aid packaging.

Alan Lamborn, Colorado State University, testified on behalf of the Fort Collins campus. Dr. Lamborn said despite being one of the largest beneficiaries of this program, he is supportive of this suggestion.

Commissioner Baker requested Mr. Bliss to be alert for unintended consequences as the program is phased out.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve; motion was seconded by Commissioner Weaver; motion passed unanimously.

**STATE GUARANTEED GENERAL EDUCATION COURSES, REVIEW CYCLE V, ROUND III:** Vicki Leal provided the Commissioners with an overview of the most recent State Guaranteed General Education Course review which occurred February 9, 2007. The 27 courses approved will become active Fall 2007.

Executive Director Skaggs asked if the “not recommended” label could be renamed to provide clarification, as the courses aren’t necessarily disapproved. Ms. Leal said she would be open to changing the label with the General Education 25 Council.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the courses as submitted, Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM’S PROPOSAL TO OFFER A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN APPLIED COMPUTING TECHNOLOGY WITH CONCENTRATIONS IN COMPUTING EDUCATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:** Julie Carnahan, Acting Chief Academic Officer, the Department of Higher Education, presented the Department of Education’s recommendation for approval of the program as meeting all of the criteria for teacher licensure degree programs.

Commissioner Weaver asked if any other institutions are offering this degree. Dr. Carnahan said this is the first institution to offer a program like this. Commissioner Weaver asked how the skills gained from this degree would be utilized in the job setting. Dr. Carnahan explained that this degree program serves both state business needs as well as the K-12 teacher education needs.

Commissioner Stewart moved to approve and Commissioner Weaver seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

**A CONSIDERATION OF POLICY AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES FOR THE DISCONTINUANCE OF ACADEMIC DEGREES WITH LOW ENROLLMENT:** Dr. Carnahan brought this item to the attention of the Commissioners and the history behind the policy. She said a statewide exemption request for physics initiated a discussion with the Chief Academic Officers of the Institutions around the state. The discussion led to questioning the policy and its intentions with the Academic Council.

Commissioner Weaver asked if this request was just for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) programs or for all programs. Dr. Carnahan said it would be

for all programs. Commissioner Weaver said she doesn't support the removal of the policy for all programs and Dr. Carnahan said that this consent item would be to undertake a study to look at the policy and how it affects academic programs. Commissioner Weaver said she doesn't want to see a blanket approach to getting rid of the policy based on the low-demand history of STEM programs.

Alan Lamborn, CSU, said the idea of the study is good. He doesn't think the number of degrees granted is the right indicator for efficiency under the current policy.

Executive Director Skaggs requested permission and encouragement to take a fresh look at some of the reporting requirements that impose burdens on institutions that are already stretched in terms of resources.

Commissioner Baker asked what the timeline is and Dr. Carnahan said she is hoping to bring it back to the Commission in a couple of months.

The Commissioners said that this item was an informational item, giving Executive Director Skaggs the authority to undertake such a study, so no action was taken on this item.

**2007-2008 BUDGET UPDATE:** Ms. Lindner gave an update on the Department's budget activities with the Joint Budget Committee and discussions with the Governor's office on tuition revenue. The agenda item is in two parts: General Fund Operating Budget and Tuition Revenues. Department staff will begin working on enrollment projections for stipend funding for both FY2007 and FY2008.

Ms. Lindner explained the approach being recommended regarding tuition revenues and described the comparison of Colorado institutions to peer institutions around the country. This comparison revealed Colorado institutions are lower in undergraduate resident tuition rates but higher in non-resident tuition rates than their peer institutions.

The Commissioners endorsed the tuition approach recommended by Department staff that would give discretion to the governing boards of the four-year colleges and the research institutions to set tuition levels within overall tuition revenue caps of 5% and 7%, respectively.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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

There was no discussion and no action was taken.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00.