# Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Meeting

## Red Rocks Community College, April 3, 2009

Chairman James Polsfut called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

Commissioners James Polsfut, Hereford Percy, Happy Haynes, Edward Robinson, Patricia Pacey and Larry Beckner were in attendance. Commissioners Jill Brake, BJ Scott and Richard Ramirez attended via teleconference. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Toni Larson and Jack Wylie. Advisory Committee members Donne Theimer, Darryl Bond and Alan Lamborn attended via teleconference.

Commissioner Pacey moved to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

Bruce Walthers, Vice President of Student Services and Enrollment Management, welcomed the Commissioners to Red Rocks Community College.

**Chair Report:** Chairman Polsfut reported that he and Jefferson County Schools Superintendent Cindy Stevinson were invited to participate in a South Jefferson Public Forum panel. Chairman Polsfut, along with Superintendent Stevinson, welcomed the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 212 at the forum.

**Advisory Committee Report:** Jack Wylie, Student Representative, informed the Commission that the students from Colorado's public institutions will hold a rally on Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> on the steps of the State Capitol. The rally is to support higher education and to call for a bipartisan coalition to find an alternate solution to the proposed budget cuts.

**Public Comment:** Mr. George Walker of Denver spoke to the Commission about the large ethnic gap in college attainment and the importance of funding for higher education.

**Executive Director Comment:** Executive Director David Skaggs introduced a new category in the agenda, Preliminary Briefing Items. These items will be brought to the Commission to give advance notice of more complex issues that are likely eventually to become Action Items.

### PRELIMINARY BRIEFING ITEMS

Credit Hour Waivers for Math and Science Teacher Preparation Programs – Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, explained that the current 126 credit hour cap on science and math teacher preparation programs leads to programs lacking depth in a science or math discipline. This lack of depth is a challenge particularly for high school teachers who teach Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or honors classes. The credit hour cap also prevents some candidates from graduating with a degree in a science discipline, which can be a deterrent to prospective teachers who want the 'fall-back' credential of a degree in a science discipline. The Commission may want to consider an across-the-board credit waiver of 138 hours for science and 128 hours

for math teacher preparation programs in order that institutions have flexibility to offer degree programs in math and science disciplines and also meet state requirements for teacher licensure. A corollary approach would have institutions maintain at least one science and math teacher preparation program at the current 126 credit cap to meet credit requirements in the Student Bill of Rights.

**Financial Aid Program Update** – In preparation for action the Commission will be asked to take at its June meeting, Diane Lindner, Chief Financial Officer and Celina Duran, Financial Aid Administrator, reviewed the background of the financial aid program and the impact of changes made to that program in the past three years.

**Report of the Status of Colorado State University-Global Campus (CSU-Global) Compliance** – Dr, Julie Carnahan stated that Colorado State University-Ft. Collins and Colorado State University-Pueblo have submitted all CSU-Global undergraduate programs as requested by the Commission. Graduate program proposals are due to DHE staff on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The proposed undergraduate and graduate degree programs will be presented to the Commission as proposals at the May CCHE meeting.

#### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Legislation Update for 2009 General Assembly – Cathy Wanstrath, the Department's contract lobbyist, briefed the Commission on recent legislative developments affecting higher education. HB1267, which eliminates pervasively sectarian language in title 23 passed through the appropriations committee with no opposition. HB1295, which permits Metropolitan State College of Denver to offer master's degree programs, has passed the House and the Senate education committee. HB1313 was recently introduced and allows governing boards to establish an optional fee to fund student-directed issue advocacy and requires any proposed fee to be on the ballot at a regular student election. HB1319, the Governor's concurrent enrollment bill, was amended and passed by the House education committee. SB45, which requires the Commission to establish five articulation agreements by 2011 allowing students to complete a 60 credit curriculum in their first two years, passed the Senate appropriations committee. SB52, which transfers 15 cents of the waste tire recycling fee to the Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority, was passed by the Senate and is awaiting action by the House appropriations committee. SB170, which originally sought to allow non-resident students to receive in-state tuition, COF stipends and state financial aid, has been amended to disallow those students from receiving a COF stipend.

**Budget Update** - Diane Lindner and Andrew Carlson, Budget Director, provided a chronological review of the most recent revenue forecasts and the action taken during the budget process. Ms. Lindner clarified that the Joint Budget Committee completed work on the Long Bill on April 1<sup>st</sup>, it will now go through the regular legislative process and is expected to go to the Governor by April 22. Mr. Carlson summarized the most recent revenue estimate, noting that the March 20<sup>th</sup> estimate from Legislative Council projected an additional \$156 million reduction for the current year, FY08-09, and another \$787 million in FY09-10. This led to a series of cuts adding up to a \$452 million reduction to higher education. If approved, that

reduction would take higher education to a funding level lower than required to meet the "Maintenance of Effort" provision of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act.

The Commission drafted the following resolution:

While recognizing the realities of the impact on the state budget of the severe decline in state revenues in FY09-10, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education expresses its deep concern regarding the effects on higher education institutions and students in Colorado of the 60% (\$452 million) reduction in state support of higher education proposed in the FY09-10 long bill, particularly as they may affect low income and traditionally underrepresented populations in higher education. Reductions of this magnitude will fundamentally undermine the competitive position and economic future of the state. More importantly, the proposed reductions will have tragic consequences in closing the door of opportunity for thousands of Colorado students at a time when job losses are driving more students to return to higher education. To backfill this loss of State support would require up to a 68% increase in student tuition rates – an increase that would prohibit many students from pursuing higher education studies. We call on the leaders of the General Assembly to revise the long bill and rely on less damaging options available to balance the budget.

Commissioner Beckner moved to adopt the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

**Status Report on SB212 and P-20 Council** – Dr. Carnahan reported on the Department's recent activities under Senate Bill 212, the Preschool to Postsecondary Alignment Act. She informed Commissioners of locations and dates of future meetings.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

**Doctor of Education in Leadership for Educational Equity–University of Colorado Denver (CU Denver)** - Dr. Carnahan presented a proposal for a Doctor of Education in Leadership for Educational Equity to be offered at the University of Colorado Denver's School of Education and Human Development. The need for the proposed degree program was indicated by a program review of the School of Education and Human Development (SEHD), recent national dialogue about the function of a doctorate in education and the changing context of the University of Colorado Denver. The program review recommended that faculty revisit the program curriculum to determine whether it was meeting the professional goals of the student population. The review also recommended that the program focus the curriculum on issues of diversity and equity and explain the program outcomes more explicitly to students. The primary applicant pool for this program will be masters-level working professionals from P-12 and community-based organizations in the Denver metropolitan area. The University of Colorado Denver intends to enroll one cohort of about 20 students per academic year until the program reaches its capacity of 80 students.

The Board of Regents for the University of Colorado System approved the Doctor of Education in Leadership for Educational Equity on March 12, 2009 as a new degree program in the School of Education and Human Development.

Dr. Deanna Sands, Associate Vice chancellor for Planning at CU Denver and Dr. Margaret Childs, Professor of Education at CU Denver testified in support of the proposed program.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the proposed program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacey and unanimously passed.

Master of Arts History – Colorado State University-Pueblo – Dr. Carnahan presented a proposal for a Master of Arts Degree in History to be offered at Colorado State University-Pueblo, School of Humanities and Social Sciences. The Masters of Arts Degree in History program will provide students with a general knowledge of history and historical methodology; introduce students to the theoretical works that serve as the foundation of historical scholarship; prepare students through training in communication and in research methods to gain knowledge of certain areas of history; and to prepare students to do independent studies and engage in critical thinking in history. In addition, the M.A. in history will provide K-12 teachers in the region the opportunity to expand their knowledge and improve their teaching of American history. This proposal is the result of student demand and a \$1.7 million Teaching Traditional American History grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The Board of Governors for the Colorado State University System approved the Master of Arts in History at Colorado State University-Pueblo on February 9, 2009.

Dr. Russ Meyers, Provost of the CSU System, testified in support of the proposed program.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the proposed program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

Master of Science, Applied Industrial/Organizational Psychology – Colorado State University – Dr. Carnahan presented a proposal for a Master of Science Degree in Applied Industrial/Organizational Psychology (I/O Psychology) to be offered through the Department of Psychology in the College of Natural Sciences at Colorado State University. The I/O Psychology degree program will be delivered fully as an online program. This M.S. in I/O Psychology came about as a result of a needs assessment distributed to 1200 individuals in the human resource area and 567 undergraduates from the University of Colorado Boulder. The Board of Governors for the Colorado State University System approved the Master of Science in Applied Industrial/Organizational Psychology at Colorado State University on February 25, 2009.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the proposed program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacey and unanimously passed.

Commissioner Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.