

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Colorado School of Mines
November 5, 2009**

Chairman James Polsfut called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

Commissioners James Polsfut, Hereford Percy, Larry Beckner, Patricia Pacey, Happy Haynes, Eddie Robinson, BJ Scott, Greg Stevinson and Michael Plachy were in attendance. Also in attendance were Advisory Committee members Dr. Alan Lamborn, Bill Mansheim, JulieMarie Shepherd, Toni Larson and Donna Theimer. Advisory committee member Darryl Bonds attended via teleconference.

Commissioner Pacey moved to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stevinson and unanimously passed.

Bill Scoggins, President of Colorado School of Mines, welcomed the Commission to the campus. President Scoggins spoke briefly about the School of Mines, noting that it had the largest entering class in the school's history this semester, approximately 980 students, and that enrollment has grown over the past three years. Research funding has grown 40% from several years ago. President Scoggins also described a humanitarian engineering program at the School that is building a water system for a small town in Nicaragua.

Chair Report: Chairman Polsfut thanked Inta Morris for stepping into the role of Interim Executive Director of the Department during the transition and introduced Rico Munn as the new Executive Director.

Commissioners Report: Commissioner Larry Beckner, who had represented the Commission on the State Commission on Autism, reported that the Autism Commission had met its October 1st deadline to submit a ten year plan for addressing issues related to autism in Colorado.

Commissioner BJ Scott reported that she has been working for the last 18 months on the Colorado Health Professions Collaborative. She provided a policy document to the Commissioners titled Addressing Colorado's Primary Care Provider Shortage. She noted that this report looks at increasing public funding for education programs in health professions. Acknowledging that it is unlikely that funding for health education programs could be increased in 2010, this report includes both near-term and longer term strategies.

Advisory Members Report: Donna Theimer, faculty representative, thanked Dr. Julie Carnahan for attending the Colorado Faculty Advisory Council on October 16th.

Executive Director Report: Executive Director Rico Munn expressed his gratitude to the Governor for asking him to serve in this important role. He highlighted his experience as an attorney and as a member of the Colorado State Board of Education, and said he looks forward to the work ahead for the Commission and the Department.

Executive Director Munn summarized the Office of State Planning and Budget's October 28, 2009 presentation to the Joint Budget Committee on Governor Ritter's FY 2009-10 Budget Balancing Plan. He said that on November 6, the Governor would submit his proposed FY 2010-2011 budget to the JBC, which would include information specifying an effective cut to higher education.

Executive Director Munn noted that he had been reviewing work done on the Higher Education Strategic Planning initiative and had consulted with former Executive Director David Skaggs and the Governor's office. He said that he expected a launch date within the next 30 days. ED Munn also provided the Commission with a draft of the so-called "higher education flexibility bill," which the legislature's Fiscal Stability Commission would submit in the next legislative session. He noted that the draft was for discussion purposed only at this time.

Public Comment: George Walker of Denver expressed his views on transferability, international students and diversity at Colorado's higher education institutions.

ACTION/CONSENT ITEMS

Proposal To Offer Instructional Technology Specialist Teacher Preparation Program At Colorado State University-Pueblo – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, prepared this item for approval.

Proposal To Offer K-12 Art, Music And Physical Education Post-Baccalaureate Teacher Preparation Programs At University Of Northern Colorado - Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, prepared this item for approval.

Proposal To Offer K-12 Spanish Teacher Preparation Program At University Of Northern Colorado - Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, prepared this item for approval.

Approval Of Early Childhood Education Teacher Preparation Program At University Of Phoenix - Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Academic Policy Officer for Teacher Education, prepared this item for approval.

Proposal To Offer A Master Of Science Degree In Epidemiology At The University Of Colorado Denver – Dr. Julie Carnahan, Chief Academic Officer, prepared this item for approval.

Commissioner Pacey expressed concern about the proliferation of new programs being brought to the Commission in the past year and questioned the economic viability of those programs. Dr. Carnahan and Advisory member Dr. Alan Lamborn responded, noting that institutions only approve new programs for submission to the Commission that meet all institutional requirements, and those requirements most certainly include demand for, and economic viability of, the new program. Commissioners discussed the feasibility of including a rationale section to future agenda items. Dr. Carnahan reminded the Commission that with the implementation of performance contracts, the Commission no longer has the authority to review new programs

based on need or rationale. Executive Director Munn suggested that regardless of the Commission's authority, staff could request such information from the institutions, who could choose to provide it or not, and that such information would keep the public and the Commission better informed.

Commissioner Robinson moved to approve the action/consent items. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Percy and unanimously passed.

ACTION ITEMS

Coordinated Degree Program Approval – Masters Of Social Work Offered By Fort Lewis College And The University Of Denver Graduate School Of Social Work – Dr. Julie Carnahan informed the Commission that since coordinated degree programs are exempt from performance contracts, the Department more carefully scrutinizes such proposals. Dr. Carnahan also noted that the proposed program before the Commission is between a public institution and a private university. On coordinated programs, the approval process requires that the institutions negotiate a memorandum of understanding and submit a full proposal, with information about the curriculum, the fiscal structure, the organizational structure, and the accreditation methods. Staff has conducted the required review of the institutions' proposal and finds that the proposal meets the statutory requirements.

Ed Bowditch, from Ft. Lewis College, testified in support of the coordinated degree program.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the coordinated degree program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and unanimously passed.

Degree Authorization Act – Florida Hospital College Of Health Sciences – Heather Delange, Degree Authorization Officer, presented this item asking the Commission for probationary authorization for Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS) to operate in Colorado. The institution has completed the evaluation process set forth in statute and the evaluation committee provided the report to department staff with minor concerns. The institution addressed those concerns sufficiently, resulting in a favorable recommendation by the committee.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the probationary authorization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and unanimously passed.

Changes To Existing Policies: Section III Capital Assets – Dan Krug, Financial and Compliance Analyst, presented this item to the Commission. The item would revise Commission policy in Section III Capital Assets to comply with Senate Bill 290 passed in the 2009 legislative session. The new law creates the following changes in the Commission's capital process:

- Divides the existing five-year capital construction list into two new lists;
- Expands the existing two categories of cash funded projects into four categories;
- Revises the categories of projects that require CCHE review;

- Clearly states which projects are eligible for state Controlled Maintenance funds; and
- Requires additional reporting criteria for governing boards.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to adopt the policy revisions. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

Commission Approval Of Capital Projects Using The Financing Instruments In The American Recovery And Reinvestment Act And Hb09-1346 – Diane Linder, Chief Academic Officer and Andrew Carlson, Budget Director, informed the Commission that this item would implement a policy that was passed at the September 10, 2009 CCHE meeting. This item seeks approval of one cash-funded capital construction project to be financed under the Recovery Zone Economic Development Bond volume cap (RZEDB) and one cash-funded capital construction to be financed under the Recovery Zone Private Facility Bond volume cap (Private Facility Bond). Under HB09-1346, the Commission is tasked with approving and prioritizing higher education capital projects financed under the two volume caps. The two projects that are recommended for approval are the Metropolitan State College of Denver Student Success Building Project and the Metropolitan State College of Denver Hotel Learning Center Project.

Commissioner Stevinson moved to approve the two Metropolitan State College of Denver projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson and unanimously passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Report on Options for Measuring and Ensuring Access and Affordability within Colorado Higher Education – Diane Lindner presented the draft report which responds to the Joint Budget Committee’s request for information on measuring and ensuring access and affordability at Colorado institutions of higher education.

2008-2009 Teach Colorado Grant Report To General Assembly – Dr. Ian Macgillivray presented the report describing the monies allocated as part of the 2008-2009 Teach Colorado Grant Initiative and how the scholarships are meeting the intent of the initiative.

PRESENTATION ITEM

Statewide Articulation Agreements – Vicki Leal, Academic Policy Officer, briefed the Commission on the state of transfer and articulation in Colorado. The presentation included a historical overview of transfer and articulation legislation, policies, programs and services, as well as summaries of Colorado’s general education guaranteed transfer program, gtPathways, an overview and update of the state’s statewide transfer/articulation agreements for Business, Engineering, Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education, and the annual faculty to faculty conference.

Commissioner Beckner moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.