

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Old Supreme Court Chambers, Colorado State Capitol
April 5, 2012

Chairman Percy called the meeting to order at 1:15pm

Chairman Hereford Percy, Vice Chairman Dick Kaufman, Commissioners Larry Beckner, Jeanette Garcia, Happy Haynes Dr. Monte Moses, Dr. Patty Pacey, Regina Rodriguez and BJ Scott were in attendance. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Senator Evie Hudak, Michael Mincic and Dr. Toni Larson. Advisor Ruth Annette Carter attended via conference call.

Commissioner Pacey moved to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2011 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and passed unanimously.

PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Andrew Brodsky, Senior Associate at Augenblick, Palaich and Associates presented the *2012 Price Sensitivity in Student Selection of Colorado Public Four-Year Higher Education Institutions*. In 2012, the Colorado Department of Higher Education contracted with Augenblick, Palaich and Associates, a local educational research firm, to complete a study assessing the effects of price on the college selection behavior of students (i.e. price sensitivity) in Colorado. The researchers sought to understand 1) the relationship between “net college admission price and student choice of institution to attend” and 2) what factors influenced this relationship. Using the Colorado Department of Higher Education’s Student Unit Record Data System (SURDS), the researchers analyzed the effect of a \$1,000 increase in net price (i.e. cost of attendance minus financial aid) on the probability of student selection (i.e. the probability that a student will choose to attend a particular institution over another institution). Augenblick, Palaich and Associates found that 1) increased tuition does influence the probability of selection and 2) this trend varies across groups of students.

Andrew Carlson, Policy Analyst with the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) presented an overview of SHEEO’s *FY2011 State Higher Education Financial Report*. Some of the highlights were a grapevine survey showing there could be a 7.5% decrease in FY2012 for appropriations as a whole, including state support tax appropriations and non-tax appropriations, from FY 2011. State and local support went up a bit in FY2011 from FY2010.

CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONER AND ADVISORS REPORTS

Chairman Percy and Inta Morris, Senior Director for Grants and Strategic Initiatives, attended a dinner hosted by the British Consul General for Colorado to discuss the programs available and the partnership between countries.

Commissioner Haynes and Vice-Chair Kaufman attended the meeting with institution representatives and Department staff to discuss the goals of the master plan.

Advisor Larson announced the Higher Education Association of the Rockies will be meeting on April 17th to give a higher education legislative update.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, mentioned the progress made on the higher education budget. In the beginning of the budget setting, there was concern about significant cuts to higher education, but increased revenue has restored the proposed \$30 million dollar cut to financial aid and restored the majority of the money in the original budget cut to the operating dollar side.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Mendelsberg, Executive Director of Colorado GEAR UP, told the Commission that GEAR UP works with low income student from the 8th grade through high school and into the first year of college. The program has just been granted a \$35 million grant over the next seven years. At the end of the recent grant period, 85% of the GEAR UP students, who initially tested unsatisfactory or partially proficient in 7th grade, went on to college. One of Mr. Mendelsberg's theories to improve college outcomes for low-income students is to call pre-algebra, algebra 1 and algebra 2 by their remedial equivalents—030, 060 and 090—in order to transcript those classes, thus making remediation unnecessary for these students. He also believes that students are placed in remediation not because they are not cognitively ready to do college-level, work but possibly because of poor test taking skills or second language issues.

Geoff Barsch, acting CFO for the University of Colorado, in referring to agenda item II, F, Recommend Funding Priorities For Federal Mineral Lease Dollars (FML), asked to work with CCHE to clarify that any of the remaining funds from the North Science project on the Auraria campus, that were institutional funds, be returned to the institutions on the Auraria campus and that the remaining FML dollars be moved on to the next project.

Bill Manshiem, Adams State College Vice President of Finance, requested that the FML proceeds go to towards Richardson Hall on Adams State College's campus.

CONSENT ITEMS

Aims Community College Program Review – Associate Of Arts, Associate Of Science, And Associate Of General Studies Degrees

Approval Of Pathways Courses

Initial Approval of Educator Preparation Unit and Principal Preparation Program at Argosy University

Colorado Community College System Two-Year Degrees With Academic Designations In Sociology And Political Science

Proposal Changes To Engineering, Mathematical And Computer Sciences Degrees At Colorado School of Mines

Recommend Funding Priorities for Federal Mineral Lease Dollars

Commissioner Edwards moved to approve the consent items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

ACTION ITEMS

Recommendation To Reverse The CCHE Decision That Prohibits Institutions Of Higher Education From Offering Bachelor's Degrees In Early Childhood Education - Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Assistant Deputy Director For Academic Affairs, presented this item to the Commissioners. A study done in 1986 argued that degrees in early childhood and elementary education lacked academic rigor. As a result of that study, the CCHE voted to require for a bachelor's degree, teacher candidates must major in a subject field such as English or math, which were believed to be rigorous degrees. DHE staff polled deans and directors of educator preparation programs at the institutions to gather opinions on whether the 1986 CCHE decision should be reversed. The majority of institutions were in favor of the reversal.

The Commission chose to address the possible reversal of prohibition of bachelor's degrees in elementary education at a future CCHE meeting.

Commissioner Moses moved to reverse the Commission's previous decision and allow institutions of higher education to offer bachelor's degrees in Early Childhood Education. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beckner and unanimously passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

2012 Report On The Status Of Performance Contracts - Dr. Ian Macgillivray reported to the Commissioners that the public institutions are in compliance with their requirements for their reporting in the current performance contracts. This year there are three private institutions that have performance contracts, Colorado Christian University, the University of Denver and Regis

University. The data from these institutions will be included in the state report. The next step is to renegotiate the performance contracts, which must take place on or before December 1, 2012.

2012 Legislative Report On The Postsecondary Outcomes Of High School Graduates – Dr. Beth Bean, Director of Information and Research and Nakia Collins, K-12 Data Alignment Analyst, presented this report. This is the first year the Department is required by statute to submit a report to the House and Senate Education Committees concerning the postsecondary academic progress and success of the preceding six high school graduating classes. Due to the availability of data, this report covers one high school graduating classes from 2008-2009. The report tracks one high school graduating class and shows that 67% of high school graduates matriculate into college. This is a higher number than previously reported due to data now being available from the National Student Clearinghouse showing Colorado high school students attending both public and private institutions, not only in Colorado but nationally.

Legislative Update – Chad Marturano, Legislative Liaison, discussed the status of upcoming legislation that impacts higher education.

SB12-045 Higher Ed Associate Degree Transfer Students – This bill passed both chambers and is going to the Governor for his signature.

HB12-1155 Improvements in College Completion – This bill is going to the House Appropriations Committee, with some likely amendments that will address the bill's fiscal impacts.

SB12-164 Operations of Private Post-Secondary Colleges - This bill makes several changes to existing statute to clarify what kind of private institutions are subject to authorization by the CCHE. The bill passed unanimously out of the Senate Education Committee that afternoon.

Mr. Marturano also informed the Commission that HB12-1061-Skills for Jobs Act and HB12-1072-Higher Education Prior Learning Assessments were both signed into law by Governor Hickenlooper.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Degree Authorization Act: Westwood College – Heather DeLange, Academic Policy Officer, informed the Commissioners details about the \$4.5 million settlement reached between Colorado Attorney General John Suthers and Westwood College announced on March 14, 2012. Westwood will pay the state \$2 million in penalties, restitution, and attorneys fees and costs. Westwood will also credit another \$2.5 million in restitution directly to students who financed their tuition with the school's institutional financing, which is called APEX. Westwood will reimburse APEX finance charges to students for Westwood's failure to follow Colorado's consumer lending laws.

Bill Ojile, Chief Legal Officer and Norman Bloom, Chief Financial Officer for Westwood College told the Commission that the settlement was the culmination of a two year investigation, in which Westwood College cooperated fully. Although the school took significant issue with the allegations made, it was decided that a settlement was preferable to litigation. They reported that Westwood College is working diligently to ensure they are in full compliance with the terms of agreement when it becomes effective May 14, 2012.

Commissioner Pacey asked what the amount of restitution monies were being returned to the students and how many students were making claims. Mr. Ojile replied that the restitution piece is the purview of the Attorney General's office and he was unable to answer the question. Commissioners Rodriguez and Garcia asked how the Commission could, in the future, be notified of complaints filed by the Attorney General's office. Dr. Gianneschi suggested that SB12-164 would help address that issue.

Master Plan Update – Dr. Matt Gianneschi reported that Department staff, along with Commissioner Haynes and Vice Chair Kaufman, met with chief financial officers, chief academic officers, and chief student services officers from the state's public colleges and universities on March 13th to discuss specific targets for the four master plan goals. These stakeholder groups will ultimately be in charge of implementing the master plan and the subsequent performance contracts. The group discussed the development of statewide partners and suggested that the participants of themselves as Coloradoans, rather than thinking as institutionally specific in regards to master plan and performance contract planning process. The highlights of the meeting were: the increase of credential attainment goals from 60% to 66-70% (Goal One); looking at the students and their conditions, rather than rates, for student success and performance evaluations (Goal Two); having the master plan focus on disparities in income, race/ethnicity and region and have the statewide target for reducing attainment goals be less than or equal to the national average (Goal Three); and telling a better story to the public about higher education to help restore revenues.

Commissioner Haynes moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.