

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
Colorado School of Mines (CSM)  
January 6, 2012

Chairman Percy called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Chairman Hereford Percy, Commissioners Larry Beckner, Dave Edwards, Jeanette Garcia, Happy Haynes, Dr. Monte Moses, Dr. Patty Pacey, Jim Polsfut and BJ Scott were in attendance. Vice Chairman Richard Kaufman and Commissioner Regina Rodriguez attended via conference call. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Senator Rollie Heath, Senator Evie Hudak, Dr. Frank Novotny, Kelly Fox, Dr. Diana Sirko and Mike Mincic. Advisors Ruth Annette Carter and Dr. Toni Larson attended via conference call.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2011 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moses and passed unanimously.

Bill Scoggins, President of the Colorado School of Mines welcomed the Commission. Enrollment at the school, 5,200 students, has grown over 65% in the last decade. Of the 5,200, 3,800-3,900 are undergraduate students and the rest are graduate students. The expectation each year is for 90% of the undergraduates or baccalaureate degrees to be placed in industry, government service or graduate school. There is a 95% plus placement for the graduate students in engineering. President Scoggins also told the Commission about the extensive construction that has occurred on campus during the last two years.

President Scoggins was questioned about the relationship the campus has with both the Town of Golden and Red Rocks Community College. The town of Golden and CSM share spaces in the town and on campus. Several CSM alumni have stayed or returned to Golden and are part of the community in both the city council and non-profits. This has helped foster a good working relationship between the campus and the town. CSM has agreements with Red Rocks, Community College, Arapahoe Community College and Front Range Community College. The schools work together closely to be certain that when a student leaves the community college system he or she is fully prepared to attend CSM. Red Rocks not only has the advantage of close proximity to the CSM campus but CSM also offers a summer program at Red Rocks called the "Challenge Program" for students who are of the margin academically for coming to CSM.

Dr. Geri Anderson, Vice President and Provost of the Colorado Community College System, updated the Commission on educational innovation in Colorado due to the \$1 million grant received from Complete College America last year. That grant has been leveraged to complete an 18-month study on remedial education. Some of the innovations are aligning the standards and competencies for remediation with the K-12 model content standards; working with college

boards to create an assessment, developing an assessment that is unique to Colorado that will align with standards in each of the remedial courses; “mainstreaming” students who are close to scoring into a college level course into that course with additional support services; accelerating the lowest students by placing them in intensive workshops at no cost to the student; and having open entry and open exit for students only needed a refreshment of certain skills offered in a course, rather than sit through the entire course. These innovations are being evaluated by an external party. At the end of the 18 months the success rates will be evaluated and remediation in Colorado will be reformed based of the successes of these students. This will also be used to pilot incentive funding and performance funding. Three hundred thousand dollars from the grant is being set aside to incentivize faculty who show great success with these interventions.

## **CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Chairman Percy reported that he attended the third Education Leadership Council meeting where higher education was the main focus of the agenda. Lt. Governor Garcia and Dr. Matt Gianneschi, Deputy Director of the Department of Higher Education, delivered a presentation at the meeting that the Commission is very familiar with but it appeared to be eye-opening to many of the attendees.

Senator Evie Hudak reported that she plans to sponsor a Reverse Transfer bill, should a student transfer from a two-year institution to a four-year institution of higher education, do not earn a bachelor’s degree, but do have enough credit for an associate’s degree. They would be reverse transferred back to the two year institution and be granted an associate’s degree.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Lt Governor Joe Garcia, Executive Director of the Department of Higher Education, also reported on the Education Leadership Council meeting. There was discussion about the beginning of an effort to talk to people around the state about educational challenges and opportunities that are facing both K-12 and higher education. The Lt. Governor also shared the good news that the Governor’s office, due to the budget having more revenue than anticipated, is revising its budget request to eliminate the \$30 million proposed cut to higher education need based financial aid. On the other hand, the state did not win the \$60 million Race to the Top grant for which it applied. Colorado is going to receive \$17.9 million in round three of Race to the Top to assist with the implementation of Senate Bill 191, the educator effectiveness bill. Lt. Governor Garcia also reported that Mr. Jamie Merisotis, CEO of Lumina Foundation, came to Denver and met with the Governor and institution CEO’s. Mr. Merisotis also met with Commissioners and Legislators to talk about the completion agenda and performance funding. He encouraged Colorado to keep moving forward and stay focused on solutions. Colorado is now among the leading states when it comes to innovation focusing on the correct outcomes.

Dr. Matt Gianneschi gave the Commission a brief update on upcoming legislation impacting the Commission and higher education. He went into more detail both about the Reverse Transfer bill and the Complete College America agenda and a possible bill sponsored by Senator Bob Bacon and Representative Tom Massey to expedite and improve college completion. Dr.

Gianneschi also spoke about a piece of legislation related to private post secondary institutions, which would to help determine whether and institution is governed by the CCHE or the Division of Private occupational Schools (DPOS). At this time the Department is working with the institutions potentially affected by the proposed ideas to collect their feedback.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

George Walker of Denver spoke to the Commission about the Lobato decision and State Board Chair Bob Schaeffer saying that “the taxpayers in Colorado are very generous to our schools,” a statement that Mr. Walker disagrees with. He feels that if the state is to take a P20 concept, the CCHE should be appealing the Lobato decision.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

### **Revised Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List – Colorado State University**

### **Proposal To Offer A Master Of Science In Engineering (MSE) Degree At Colorado State University - Pueblo**

### **Proposal To Offer Doctor Of Nursing Practice (DNP) Degree At Colorado State University - Pueblo**

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

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Discussion and Potential Action on Revisions to Master Plan Goals – Dr. Matt Gianneschi.** The Commissioners asked that this item be moved to the discussion items for this meeting in preparation for future action.

Commissioner Scott moved to place the item in the discussion items on today’s agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Edwards and unanimously passed.

**CCHE Financial Aid Approval Withdrawal – Mark Cavanaugh, Chief Financial Officer,** presented this item to the Commission. As the Lt. Governor mentioned during his Executive Director Report, the December budget forecast came back better than anticipated. The Lt. Governor, while testifying to the Joint Budget Committee, requested that if additional funding were to become available, a critical area to restore funding was need based financial aid. The Office of State Planning and Budgeting and the Governor’s office did just that. Consequently, the Commission needs to align the CCHE budget with that of the Governor’s and propose the restoration the proposed reductions to need based financial aid and work study for FY 2013.

Commissioner Pacey moved to rescind proposed reductions in state funded need based financial aid and work study programs in the FY 2012-13 higher education budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

**FY2011 Report on Education Preparation to General Assembly** – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Assistant Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, was asked by the Commission to move this item to the February agenda, giving the Commissioners time to read the report, make recommendation and ask questions in the interim.

Commissioner Scott moved to place this item on the February 3, 2012 CCHE agenda. . The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and unanimously passed.

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

**Financial Aid Allocation** – Celina Duran, Director of Financial Aid, reported on recent discussions with the institutions regarding financial aid allocations for FY2012-2013. Prior to the proposed restorations of the \$30 million cut on November 1<sup>st</sup>, school budget office representatives and financial aid representatives met regularly with the Department to discuss how to target aid should there be a \$30 million cut to financial aid. Should the aid go to the neediest students, the institutions with the most increased enrollment, graduate students, students enrolled in private institutions? Should the students be able to have the resources to finish their degree or should the aid just be for new students entering college? Should graduate funding only go to Level I students enrolled in STEM fields or medical careers?

The allocation model that has been used was passed by the Commission in late 2006 and was implemented in the 2007-2008 school year. A one year deviation to that model for FY2011-2012 was a compromise between (a) access for eligible incoming students and (b) ensuring predictability for eligible returning students. The final model included a reduction to both graduate funding and funding to proprietary institutions as well as a limit on year-over-year reductions to any institution or governing board.

Commissioner Moses asked what the anticipation of events should there be a rollback in the forecast and the financial aid cuts are restored. Ms. Duran responded that several allocation models were being considered by the institutions and without the restoration of the cuts, she had been prepared to bring the agreed upon models to the Commissioner for consideration. Most institutions supported a proportional reduction across the board if there was such a cut. The issue is the timeline is short for planning purposes, and it was agreed that no one was looking for radical changes in FY2013.

Commissioner Haynes stated that she would like to see data on how financial aid affects outcomes that are reflected in the master plan goals, such as, which financial aid strategies promote more access for under-served students; if credential attainment is an important goal, is financial aid at the front end of a college career more important than at the tail end; and if financial aid increased over time, rather than diminished, would that support retention and increase attainment goals. Advisor Fox stated that there is interest in this data and discussion around these questions will happen in the off cycle as opposed to having them in the midst of the cycle. She also said that if there are diminishing resources, making sure that there is some level

of access to those funds is important for institutions, so stability remains a part of the priority for the institutions.

Commissioner Haynes asked, why, if there is already an agreement in place for the worst case scenario, you wouldn't stick to that agreement moving forward to ensure predictability. This way we could view the proposed restoration as a means for doing something differently going forward. Advisor Fox replied that although there was agreement around the operating allocation formula, there was not agreement on how the financial aid allocation would work. Lt. Governor Garcia added that to look at a radical change now for next year would put the institutions in a difficult position and these changes to allocation models should be looked at for future years. The Lt. Governor also reminded the Commission that although a certain amount of money is given to the institutions through the financial aid allocations, the institutions determine how that money is distributed.

Commissioner Scott stated that in an era of scarce resources it is important how you invest those resources. She also suggested being strategic with financial aid in future planning and consider supporting the outcomes as they tie in with the master plan goals.

Commissioner Beckner expressed interest in data that the Commission can use to help make policy as opposed to creating a model to determine how the dollars go from one institution to the other.

**Discussion and Potential Action on Revisions to Master Plan Goals** – Dr. Matt Gianneschi presented to the Commissioners the State's newly drafted master planning goals after the December 2, 2011 summit with the CEOs and governing board chairs. Three major themes came from the meeting: 1) that quality and the integrity of the academic enterprise had to be maintained, 2) the role that the postsecondary sector concerning research and economic development and the perceived omission of the existing goals relative to higher education's contribution to the economic development of the state, and, 3) the perceived omission of the concept of access and the inclusion of something specifically related to the improvement of access, as several of the institutions have access as part of their role and mission. Dr. Gianneschi presented the Colorado Higher Education Master Plan for Preliminary State Goals, adopted at the September 2011 Commission meeting, that were revised after the December 2<sup>nd</sup> summit. These goals will have a narrative that relates to each one and will delve into the strategies needed to reach these goals.

Below are the Preliminary Goals. The changes made, during the ensuing discussion, are shown with a strike-through, followed by the new revisions.

***Goal 1: Increase Degree Attainment:*** *Increase the attainment of postsecondary credentials across Colorado in order to meet anticipated workforce demands, with increased focus on programs with high labor market value.*

***Goal 2: Improve Student Success:*** *Improve outcomes in ~~remedial~~ developmental education (or supplemental education skill sets or support strategies) and reduce average time to ~~degree~~ credentials for all students.*

**Goal 3: Diversify Enrollments and Reduce Attainment Gaps:** *Enhance access to postsecondary education to reflect the changing demographics of the state while closing attainment gaps among students from traditionally underserved communities. ~~paying particular attention to Latinos, students from rural communities, and students from lower socioeconomic households.~~*

**Goal 4: Restore Balance in Postsecondary Revenues and Improve Productivity:** *Develop resources, from public and private sources, that will allow public institutions of higher education to successfully meet projected enrollment demands, lower resident students' relative share of college costs, and improve the ratio of ~~degrees~~ credentials produced relative to state investments in higher education.*

The Commission then discussed the Preamble, below, and asked the Commission for their feedback prior to the next CCHE meeting.

### ***Introduction/Preamble***

*The general purpose of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education is to act as the policy coordinating board for the state. To this end, the Commission serves a comprehensive, statewide purpose and possesses the unique charge to view postsecondary education from a universal perspective. And, while the Commission is charged by the General Assembly with maintaining an adequate and efficient system of postsecondary education, it is the needs of the individual Coloradans that are most often of foremost concern.*

*In fulfilling the charge given to it by the General Assembly, the Commission must periodically prepare a statewide master plan, a document that is at once a hopeful vision of limitless potential and an outline of practicable recommendations. In preparing the list of priority goals found below, this Commission attempted to identify the areas of greatest urgency statewide, the issues upon which future successes and sustainability rest. Though purposeful and intentional in their focus, these goals are based upon several fundamental assumptions, in particular, that the quality of the academic enterprise is of supreme import and must be maintained above all other issues and that the role of the postsecondary sector, in particular its productivity in research and scholarly activities, is of paramount consequence to the vitality of the state's economy and quality of life.*

*With great trust and confidence in and a sincere sense of partnership with the leaders of and faculty in the state's postsecondary institutions, this Commission considers the goals below to be more than an inspirational list of appealing ideas, but rather a new shared promise among the General Assembly, the institutions of higher education, the Commission on Higher Education and the citizens of the state of Colorado. Consequently, this Commission considers the achievement of*

*these goals as not simply a routine exercise for heightened accountability, but rather a priority inventory of ambitious, achievable commitments intended to improve opportunities for all citizens in the state. And, this promise is not unilateral. This Commission considers itself jointly responsible for the achievement of the goals found below and holds itself accountable for their realization.*

Commissioner Scott thought the third paragraph should be elevated to the beginning of the document. She stated that this is a shared promise between the General Assembly, higher education, the CCHE Commissioners and the citizens and the document is not an inventory of issues but a significant new direction that we intend to accomplish in the State.

The last issue discussed was the need for an economic development goal and/or addressing both the importance of economic development, as well as an educated person philosophy, in the preamble.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.