

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Old Supreme Court Chambers, Colorado State Capitol
March 2, 2012**

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

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

Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2011 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kaufman and passed unanimously.

CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONER AND ADVISORS REPORTS

CCHE Advisor Senator Evie Hudak reported that Senate Bill 12-045 Higher Ed Associate Degree Transfer Students passed in the Senate, is coming up for a house vote and is a bipartisan bill that she believes is unanimously supported.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, introduced Nakia Collins, the department's new K-12 Alignment Analyst. The Lt. Governor also introduced Mark Stevens, an accomplished writer who will be assisted in writing the 2012 Master Plan.

Lt. Governor Garcia reported that he prepared a letter for the Joint Budget Committee indicating his support for the PARCC national assessment consortia.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. John Giandino, representing the Colorado PTA as a part of the Great Futures Coalition, and Lisa Weil, policy director for Great Education Colorado, addressed the Commission about ensuring adequate funding for all on education in the State. The Great Futures Coalition, comprised of different organizations, will be working on the "Year of the Student" project to encourage political action regarding education funding. The goal of this project is to create a movement of individuals and organizations that understand the urgency of education funding and want to convey this to state leaders. Mr. Giandino and Ms. Weil will be coming to CCHE at the next meeting with an official request to join in the campaign.

Mr. George Walker, of Denver, expressed his displeasure at the direction of all the assessments and testing at HB12-1049 and SB12-047. He says that the most stigmatizing thing for students of color is standardized testing.

Dr. Bob Mendenhall, president of Western Governor's University (WGU), presented to the Commission. WGU was created 15 years ago by 19 western governors, as a non-profit private university offering online, competency-based degree programs. WGU has over 30,000 students (from every state) and tuition is \$6,000 per year. They are entirely self-sustaining with tuition. The average time to graduate is 30 months, compared to 60 months nationally; bachelors and masters degrees are offered and WGU partners with community colleges to provide transfer options.

CONSENT ITEMS

Resolution Regarding The Authorization Of Colorado Christian University

Revision Of Commission Policy Regarding Capital Assets

Revised Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List – Adams State College

Proposal To Offer A Master's In Agricultural Extension Education At Colorado State University

Proposal To Offer A Bachelor Of Arts In Jewish Studies At The University Of Colorado Boulder

Proposal To Offer A Master Of Science In Modern Human Anatomy At The University Of Colorado Denver Anschutz Medical Campus

Proposal To Offer An International Bachelor Of Arts (IBA) Degree At The University Of Colorado Boulder

Proposal To Offer A Master's In Natural Science At Colorado State University

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

ACTION ITEMS

Degree Authorization Act: Request For Status Change – Florida Hospital College Of Health Sciences (FHCHS) – Heather DeLange, Academic Policy Officer, presented this item to the Commission. FHCHS requests full authorization from CCHE based on its most recent site visit and subsequent reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The school is a private, non-profit institution, headquartered in Orlando, Florida and has held accreditation from SACS since 1996. The Denver campus has, according

to The Degree Authorization Act rules, held probationary status prior to having an onsite review from the accreditation body. The onsite review was held March 8-10, 2011 and the Board of Trustees of SACS Commission on Colleges reaffirmed the institutions accreditation at its December 2011 meeting

Vice Chairman Kaufman moved to approve the status change for Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences from Probationary to Full authorization. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and unanimously passed.

Approval Of Sociology And Political Science Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements – Dr. Ian Macgillivray and Maia Blom, presented this item recommending statewide transfer articulation agreements for the Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and the Bachelor of Arts in Sociology.

There are now seven statewide transfer articulation agreements. These two will bring the total to nine new agreements since 2009. The expectation is to have 18 articulation agreements by the end of 2012, surpassing the required 14 agreements by 2016.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the proposed the two new statewide articulation agreements. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kaufman and unanimously passed.

Financial Accountability Plan Amendments for Western State College – Mark Cavanaugh, Chief Financial Officer, reported that Western State College is requesting authority to increase resident tuition rates by 18 percent in FY 2012-13, 18 percent FY 2013-14, 10 percent in FY 2014-15, and 8 percent in FY 2015-16.

Western State College President Jay Helman and Vice President Brad Baca explained that the primary drivers for Western State College for the requested changes are (a) continued reductions in state funding and (b) changes in other variables such as the mix of resident and nonresident enrollment. To assist low- and middle-income students, Western State's amendment proposes to increase the average tuition discount rate for resident and nonresident students beyond what is currently planned. In addition, Western will continue to charge "Level 1" and "Level 2" students one-half of the requested tuition increase. To help students with managing their debt, Western has recently partnered with College Invest. Through this relationship, College Invest provides training tools to the college and has expanded counseling support to include in-person exit counseling.

Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve the Financial Accountability Plan amendment for Western State College as adopted by the Financial Accountability sub-committee. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kaufman and unanimously passed.

Financial Accountability Plan Amendments for Adams State College – Mark Cavanaugh, Chief Financial Officer, reported that Adam State College is requesting authority to increase

resident tuition rates by 15 percent in FY 2012-13 and 9 percent each year thereafter through FY 2015-16.

Bill Mansheim, Chief Financial Officer for Adams State College, explained that in the case of his institution the primary arguments for the requested change are (a) continued reductions in state funding and fixed and (b) cost increases highlighted in Table 2 of the college's revised plan. As a result of anticipated reductions in state general fund support for higher education, Adams State College expects to receive \$639,000 less in state operating funds in FY 2012-13 than in the current fiscal year. As a part of its FAP, ASC agrees to continue to set aside 26% of revenue from the proposed tuition increase to fill unmet need for low income students.

Importantly, recent expenditure reductions at ASC include elimination of five administrative positions, holding eleven other positions vacant, freezing salaries for four years, reducing benefits for two years and reducing other unnecessary operating and travel costs. ASC is also opting out of more expensive state risk management and contract monitoring programs.

Commissioner Rodriguez moved to approve the Financial Accountability Plan amendment for Adams State College as adopted by the Financial Accountability sub-committee. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Kaufman and unanimously passed.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Master Plan Update – Dr. Matt Gianneschi, Deputy Executive Director, presented the four goals the Commission suggested at the February 9, 2012 meeting, allowing for further edits:

Goal 1: Increase Attainment: Increase the attainment of high quality postsecondary credentials across the academic disciplines and throughout Colorado in order to meet anticipated workforce needs.

Goal 2: Improve Student Success: Improve student success through better outcomes in basic skills education, enhanced student support services and reduced average time to credential for all students.

Goal 3: Diversify Enrollments and Reduce Attainment Gaps: Enhance access to and through postsecondary education to ensure that the system reflects the changing demographics of the state while reducing attainment gaps among students from underserved communities.

Goal 4: Restore Balance in Postsecondary Revenues and Maintain Productivity: Develop resources, through increases in state funding, that will allow public institutions of higher education to successfully meet projected enrollment demands, lower resident students' relative share of college costs, and maintain the state's position as a national leader in the ratio of credentials produced relative to state investments in higher education.

The discussion then moved to the feasibility of added a fifth goal, which would read:

Goal 5: Continue to Catalyze the State's Economy: Strengthen higher education's impact on the state's recovering economy by expanding research and scholarly activities, enriching the state's human capital by expanding and developing new programs in high demand fields, investing in programs that directly impact state and regional economies, and increasing public-private partnerships.

Although it made sense to have an economic development goal, due to the difficulty in applying metrics for each institution the Commissioners asked that the goal be brought to the institutions CEO's for feedback. Some of the CEO's were interested in making this goal elective if the metrics were also elective.

The Lt. Governor suggested that it might be best if Goal 5 in the form of the narrative portion on the Master Plan to address the importance of institution's economic contributions. Commissioner Haynes agreed. Commissioner Moses believes that the CEOs and their staff, along with department staff, could come up with excellent metrics. Commissioner Moses that that he is amenable to having the goal in the narrative but feels like this is being done, to some extent, for convenience and not really out of substance.

Commissioner Garcia asked to move this Information Item to an Action item. She moved to approve the first four goals and the suggested fifth goal be included in the narrative. This would include the first four goals having specific metrics that would be part of the Performance Contracts. Commissioner Haynes seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Concurrent Enrollment Update - Dr. Beth Bean, Director of Research and Information and Tamara White Johnson, Director of Admission and Access Policy, provided the CCHE with two reports from the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board (CEAB). The first report concerns recommendations for policy change. CEAB is recommending a waiver provision for ASCENT for the 6th year, which has been sent to the House and Senate Education Committees. This will allow students who participated in ASCENT in their fifth year of high school to participate in ASCENT for a sixth year. The second report, the 2011 Concurrent Enrollment Report, illustrated the number of students who participated in concurrent enrollment programs. The report shows the unduplicated student count for participating institutions of higher education, participation numbers for ASCENT and current enrollment numbers by institution of higher education (IHE) and local education provider (LEP). This includes 12 participating institutions of higher education and 243 local education providers. Of the 9,360 students, 5.5% are taking basic skills courses and the anticipation is this will increase and more students opt to go through this program for their remedial needs.

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 will go to the House Education Committee on March 19th.

HB12-1155 Improvements in College Completion – This bill will go to the House Education Committee on March 14th. The department is working to building consensus with language for all the institutions affected by the bill.

SB12-164 has yet to be introduced. It will be a “modernization” of the Degree Authorization Act. This bill would standardize the processes to authorize private colleges and universities in Colorado.

SB12-015 Creating Optional Category of Higher Ed Tuition – This bill is still in the Senate and is currently up for the third reading on March 5th. Should the bill make it out of the Senate into the House, Chairman Percy, on behalf of CCHE, will testify to the committee in support of the bill.

HB12-1252 Transparency of Higher Ed Financial Information - This bill will create an online checkbook for the higher education institutions to publicly disclose in a searchable database, any revenues coming in, as well as expenditures going out. The introduced version defined higher education institutions as the research institutions (CU, CSU, UNC and CSM). The House Education Committee amended the bill to read any institution that receives College Opportunity Fund dollars, including the private, non-profit institutions (Regis, DU and CC). The bill does have a fiscal note attached to it, although the exact amount has not been determined.

HB12-1080 and SB12-148, the name change bills from College to University for Adams State College and Metropolitan State College of Denver, respectively have both been introduced and are moving through the process. The Adams State College bill also includes a role and mission change.

Commissioner Edwards moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.