

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Colorado College
December 5, 2013

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

Chairman Dick Kaufman, Commissioners Luis Colon, Jeanette Garcia, Happy Haynes, Monte Moses, Hereford Percy and BJ Scott attended. Commissioner Polsfut attended via conference call. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Senator Evie Hudak, Dr. Toni Larson, Mark Superka, Dr. Keith Owen and Melissa Wagner. Advisors Frank Novotny and Mike Mincic attended via conference call.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the minutes of the November 1 and the November 7, 2013 CCHE meetings. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and passed unanimously.

President Jill Tiefenthaler welcomed the Commission to Colorado College.

Chairman Kaufman thanked outgoing CCHE Advisor Senator Evie Hudak for her years of service and acknowledged her dedication to education.

COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Scott reported that she used the CCHE PowerPoint presentation at the Colorado Springs Business Journal Luncheon with good success.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Chief Operating Officer, Jennifer Sobanet, gave the Executive Director's report in Lt. Governor Garcia's stead. Ms. Sobanet told the Commission that the department's senior staff will be having a retreat December 19th and 20th to align the strategic priorities for the next year with the strategic plan in Mater Plan. She also thanked the Commissioners who testified at the Capital Development Committee Hearing and briefed the Commission on the upcoming Joint Budget Committee Hearing and the SMART Act Hearing. Also mentioned were the two new outreach staff members added to the College in Colorado (CIC) division, including the 16th floor receptionist, Brianna Kutasukas, who is moving into the CIC Own Your Future project.

Chairman Kaufman asked the Commissioners to check their calendars to see the feasibility of moving the February, March, April and May CCHE meetings to the second Friday of the month. Chairman Kaufman also welcomed Senator Nancy Todd to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Walker, of Denver, addressed the Commission about massive open online courses or MOOCs. He thinks they are fine as long as they are taught by faculty member of an institution

and is against stand-alone colleges offering only MOOCs. Mr. Walker also reported he believes the problem at the University of Colorado' Boulder is not too much partying and drug use, as the Daily Camera reported, but is a lack of diversity and funding.

CONSENT ITEMS

Clarification: Bachelor of Applied Science in Management and Leadership at Colorado Mountain College

Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program Lists

Five-Year State Funded Capital Program Lists

Approval of gtPathways Courses

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

INFORMATION ITEMS

FY 2012-2013 Financial Aid Report - Celina Duren presented the Financial Aid Report given annually to the Joint Budget Committee and the House and Senate Education Committees. The student loan debt, which averaged \$25,000 per student, was discussed, as was the importance of aid offered by the institutions.

Degree Authorization Act – Monthly Update – Heather DeLange gave the Commission three updates.

- 1) Mount St. Mary's College has requested authorization as a private, degree-granting institution in Colorado
- 2) Notification received from Strayer University that they have signed 15 articulation agreements with Colorado Community Colleges
- 3) Notification received from Colorado Technical University (CTU) regarding a decision to discontinue operations at its Westminster facility at the expiration of the lease on October 31, 2015

Ms. DeLange told the Commission she just received a notice that Colorado's Attorney General John Suthers announced a consumer protection settlement with Argosy University. Argosy University is accused of deceiving, misleading and financially injuring students seeking a doctorate of education in counseling psychology degrees in violation of the Colorado Consumer Protection Act. Argosy will pay approximately \$3.3 million in restitution and fines to 66 students. Commissioner Moses stated that the restitution should include compensation for the loss of time the student invested in the degree program because the hours away from their family is a considerable expense beyond tuition. He also stated the fines should be a real disincentive for institutions to behave so recklessly.

University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus Master Plan – Tonya Covarrubias introduced Mr. Michael Del Giudice, Mark Berthold and Teresa Osborne from the University of Colorado Denver|Anschutz Medical Campus, who presented the revised and updated Facilities Master Plan for the Anschutz Medical Campus.

ACTION ITEMS

Review and Approval of a Performance-Based Funding Plan Pursuant To 23-1-108 (1.9) C.R.S. – Mark Cavanaugh, Chief Financial Officer, gave an overview of the performance based funding plan. Senate Bill 11-052 requires the Commission develop a plan for distributing performance-based funding based upon the success of institutions meeting goals identified in governing board performance contracts, along with providing information in the plan about how the allocation of performance-based funding would impact College Opportunity Fund (COF) stipends and fee-for-service contracts. According to statute, FY2016-17 is the soonest that performance funding could be made available and the threshold of state support to higher education institutions must be at least \$706 million dollars. Through consensus with the institutions, the framework and principles of the plan have been developed. The plan is required to demonstrate to the General Assembly how performance funding will work and how COF is going to be accommodated.

Mr. Cavanaugh explained that Colorado has a very diverse and unique set of institutions and the plan respects that uniqueness and relies heavily on unique metrics. Peer measurement will also be used to allow institutions to show improvement within their peer group. Once a metric is established the institutions will assign a weight related to that number and there needs to be an application of scalability. He also stressed that the plan being presented is the framework and the department and Commission have two years to develop the metrics, weights and scales. Dr. Bean and the Data Advisory Group have looked at the metrics and how to get a fair measurement for them. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) is developing the funding allocation mechanism.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the Performance Finding Allocation Plan to be provided to the General Assembly's Education Committees and Joint Budget Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

Degree Authorization Act: CollegeAmerica – Request for the Renewal of Provisional Authorization – This item was pulled from the agenda due to staff not receiving the official status of CollegeAmerica from the Accredited Commission of Career Schools and Colleges' November meeting.

Recommend Approval of Proposed Changes to the CCHE Admissions Standards Policy – Tamara White, Director of Admission and Access Policy, reminded the Commission that statute requires the Admissions Policy be reviewed and revised by December 15, 2013. Ms. White highlighted the changes to the policy since the November 7, 2013 CCHE meeting. The institutions expressed concern about the fall of 2016 timeline for implementation and thus department staff added two years to the implementation process that allows each institution to

choose between the old and new admissions standards from 2016-2018. After fall of 2018, institutions will need to use the new statewide policy. John Marshall, Mesa State Colorado University, expressed concern about the 2018 implementation deadline and requested it be changed to fall of 2019.

Commissioner Garcia moved to add an amendment to the motion moving the date of implementation (S, check this word with Tamara – implementation has to begin 4 years prior to the date that a Senior would use this policy) to fall of 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Polsfut and passed by a vote of four to three.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the proposed new Admissions Standards Policy with the added amendment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colon and passed unanimously.

Recommend Approval of Proposed Changes to the CCHE Remedial Education Policy – Tamara White informed the Commission that statute also requires the Remedial Education Policy be reviewed and revised by December 15, 2013. Ms. White highlighted the changes to the policy since the November 7, 2013 CCHE meeting.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the proposed new Remedial Education Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Analysis and Background on Community College Bachelor of Applied Science Bill Draft – Chad Marturano, Director of Legislative Affairs, distributed the Community College Four-year Programs bill drafted on November 14, 2013, along with the amendments the Community College System agreed to. He explained there are 22 states that allow a two-year institution to confer a baccalaureate program. The bill, sponsored by Senator Nancy Todd and Representatives James Wilson and Jenise May, gives the Colorado Community College System the ability to offer Bachelor of Applied Sciences (BAS) degrees. The agenda item gives the background of this concept. Mr. Marturano noted that none of the four-year institutions oppose the bill.

Dr. Nancy McCallin addressed the Commission, informing them of the need for these four-year degrees. Students who receive an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree cannot transfer to a four-year institution because career and technical credits do not transfer to any four-year public institutions nor do any of the institutions, with the exception of Colorado Mesa University, offer a BAS degree. This can send students out of state, as increasingly the work force is requiring some level of a four-year degree. Students who receive an AAS degree will be able to easily transfer into a BAS degree in the community college system. Students who reside in the rural sections of the state may only have access to a two-year institution and would not have to relocate if they want a baccalaureate degree. Also, offering BAS degrees will help achieve two of the Mater Plan goals; increasing postsecondary credentials and increasing access to postsecondary education.

The Commission will approve all programs for the BAS degrees and the programs would take at least three to five years to implement. If the programs do not attract sufficient numbers of students to warrant them, they will be removed from the curriculum.

FY 2014-2015 Financial Aid Discussion – Celina Duran reminded the Commission that they are charged with allocating the \$5 million for merit aid and the \$5 million for work study aid to the institutions based on the appropriations approved by the General Assembly. She explained the current allocations for work study has not been reexamined in more than a decade. The Commission requested that the department bring allocation recommendations to them this spring. Therefore, Celina will work with both the institution’s CFOs and financial aid administrators to solicit feedback. This discussion will continue at both the January and February 2014 CCHE meetings with the goal of having an action item to present in March.

Graduation Guidelines Discussion – Rebecca Holmes, Associate Commissioner of Innovation, Choice and Engagement, Colorado Department of Education, gave the Commissioners a PowerPoint presentation to show that the graduations guidelines and admission policy intersect well but cannot completely align at this juncture.

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