

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Telephonic Meeting
January 22, 2013

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

Chairman Dick Kaufman, Vice Chair Patty Pacey, Commissioners Jeanette Garcia, Happy Haynes, Monte Moses, Hereford Percy and Jim Polsfut attended via conference call. Also on the call were CCHE Advisory Committee members Senator Evie Hudak, Senator Nancy Todd, Representative LeRoy Garcia, Toni Larson, Frank Novotny, Michael Mincic, Ruth Annette Carter, Mark Superka, Keith Owen and Laura Rutz.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2012 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moses and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Duane Hanson, student legislative liaison for the State Student Advisory Council voiced his concern regarding lowering the Colorado Grant Funding model from 150% of Pell eligible students to 100% of Pell eligible students. This will increase indebtedness and might increase students defaulting on their loans. This group of students does not have high enough expected family income and therefore will have to take out more in student loans.

Dr. Matt Gianneschi assured Mr. Hanson that his concern would be addressed during the Financial Aid Allocation Method agenda item discussion.

Mr. George Walker of Denver quoted an article from EdNews Colorado, saying that the gaps among adults with college degrees have steadily widened since 1960, with the percent of whites with college degrees three times higher than the Latino rate and double the black rate. Those disparities are the nation's worst for both Latinos and blacks. Mr. Walker once again criticized the University of Colorado for not having enough diversity and suggested tying funding to diversity rates for the University.

Mr. Walker thinks it unwise to have SB 13-033 to go through the legislative process unless the state has something like it for all students.

CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of the 2013 Commission Meeting Schedule

~~Approval to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Endorsement Program at Regis University, Regis College~~

Proposal to Offer a Master of Arts in English at Colorado State University-Pueblo

Proposal to Offer a Bachelor of Science in Fermentation Science at Colorado State University

Recommendation to Approve Criminal Justice Statewide Transfer Articulation University

Degree Authorization Act – Washington University in St Louis: Request for Authorization

The Approval to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Endorsement Program at Regis University, Regis College agenda item was tabled until the February 1, 2013 CCHE meeting.

Commissioner Pacey questioned why Washington University in St Louis hopes to come to Colorado. She wondered if there is a need that is not being met by Colorado's schools. Heather DeLange replied that based on market research done by Washington University, their administration felt Colorado was a good fit for a satellite campus to offer an Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) degree.

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

ACTION ITEM

FY 2013-2014 Financial Aid Allocation Method – Celina Duran, Financial Aid Administrator, presented this item for the Commission's approval. As she explained, the new model for undergraduate need based aid (Colorado Student Grant) includes the following components:

- Targeting allocations to Pell eligible FTE, to include both part-time and full-time students.
- Eliminating financial "tiers" among institutions (moving to "flat" or common award levels)
- Introducing progressive award "steps" to incent and promote retention and momentum.
- Introducing financial "disincentives" for continuing students that do not complete in a timely manner in second year.
- Creating greater year-over-year predictability for financial aid administrators.
- Maintaining institutional flexibility to award state grant aid to students currently receiving awards (i.e., resident students with up to 150% of the Pell EFC)
- Hold harmless provision for first year, so no institution is cut from FY 2012-2013.
- Move to one year of data rather than three years with an increase or an average, to fund actual enrollments and increase predictability from one year to the next.

Ms. Duran stated regarding the Pell eligible resident students, that institutions will have the flexibility to award 97% of those dollars to whoever has financial need. The allocation method being proposed follows Pell eligible student enrollments at the institutions but the public institutions are still allowed to use the funds award the students up to 150% of Pell EFC.

Ms. Duran also explained this item includes a provision to implement a “super senior” credit limit for the second year of the program, as the data is unavailable at this time.

Commissioner Garcia suggested that there be consistency regarding the terminology used to describe “super seniors” or “advanced seniors” going forward.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the FY 2013-14 Financial Aid Allocation Method. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pacey and unanimously passed.

INFORMATION ITEM

Fiscal Year 2012-13 Tuition and Fees Report – Tonya Gomez, Finance Policy Officer, informed the Commissioners of the highlights in the Tuition and Fees Report:

- The Financial Accountability Plans portion was removed from this year’s report.
- From FY 2011-12 to FY 12-13, the majority of institutions raised tuition between 5% and 15%.
- Revenue from the state and tuitions has shifted over the last five years due to decreased revenue from the state.
- All institutions increased undergraduate (resident and non-resident) base tuition and fees.
- Institution flexibility was implemented in part to help institutions deal with reductions in state support and close operational funding gaps.
- Institutions also use tuition revenue to increase financial assistance to low and middle income students and to enhance retention and completion strategies.
- Institutions with high non-resident tuition rates generate significantly more revenue from a one-percent increase on per student basis than the same increase applied to the resident rate.
- Fees vary greatly across the institutions, in part due to the increase in state funding.

Legislative Update – Chad Marturano, Legislative Liaison, updated the Commission of bills affecting higher education.

HB13-1005 Basic Ed & Career & Tech Ed Pilot Program - Would require the Colorado Community College System to design new certificate programs to allow certain unemployed or underemployed adults to obtain a career and technical education certificate in 12 months or less. This bill will go to the House Education Committee on January 29, 2013.

SB13-033 In-state Classification Colorado High School Completion - Student shall be charged resident tuition rates at institutions of higher education if they have attended a Colorado high school three years preceding graduation or attaining a GED and is admitted to a school of higher education within one academic year following graduation. If the student has not been admitted within one academic year, they must have been physically present in the state for 18 months prior to enrolling. The student is eligible to receive Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) stipends. The student may be eligible, depending on the institution’s consideration, for institution or private financial aid programs. The student must submit an affidavit to the school stating that

they have applied for lawful presence, or will apply as soon as they are eligible. This bill will go to the Senate Education Committee on January 24, 2013.

Commissioners Haynes and Percy will testify in support of the bill at the Senate Education Committee meeting.

Chairman Kaufman read the Colorado Commission on Higher Education Resolution supporting SB13-033 into the record.

Commissioner Haynes moved to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

Commissioner Garcia moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes. The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 pm.