

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Old Supreme Court Chambers, Colorado State Capitol
March 1, 2013

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

Chairman Richard Kaufman, Vice Chair Patty Pacey, Commissioners Jeanette Garcia, Happy Haynes, Monte Moses, Jim Polsfut and BJ Scott attended. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Senator Evie Hudak, Senator Rollie Heath, Representative Lois Court, Representative LeRoy Garcia, Toni Larson, Frank Novotny, Michael Mincic and Mark Superka. Advisor Ruth Annette Carter attended via conference call.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2013 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, Executive Director, reported that the department and the institutions have reached agreement on the performance contracts and they will be executed over the next month. Once signed, a plan will be created to allocate performance dollars under those contracts per Senate Bill 11-052.

Lt Governor Garcia also informed the Commission that the Department received both a \$250,000 grant from the Ford foundation and a \$200,000 grant from the Rose Foundation.

The Department will be releasing the Concurrent Enrollment Report in mid-March.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. George Walker, of Denver, discussed funding for education and still believes higher education is being left out of the funding equation. Mr. Walker also mentioned the lack of diversity at the University of Colorado. Mr. Walker also questioned why higher education funding was not addressed in 2011's Proposition 103. Senator Heath replied that it was advised not to include that because higher education funding polls so poorly in the state. Senator Heath said what was needed was convincing the voters that higher education is worth supporting.

CONSENT ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve an Associate of Arts in Criminal Justice in the State System of Community Colleges

Proposal to Offer a Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Materials Science and Engineering at University of Colorado Boulder

Proposal to Offer a Doctor of Philosophy in Comparative Ethnic Studies at University of Colorado Boulder

Recommend Approval of Special Education Generalist Teacher Preparation Program at Colorado Mesa University

Proposal to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Bilingual Education Specialist Endorsement at the University of Northern Colorado

Proposal to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Endorsement at the University of Northern Colorado

Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation of a Status Change for Washington University in St. Louis

Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List Amendment – Front Range Community College

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

ACTION ITEMS

Supplemental Academic Instruction Policy – Dr. Kim Poast, Associate Deputy Director for Access and Student Services, presented this policy for approval. The new policy provides a way for the institutions to address students with limited academic deficiencies without having to go through remedial courses. This policy was developed with academic and student services representatives and shared with all the institutions. The policy will enable the Department to collect and track data about students with limited academic deficiencies.

Commissioner Moses moved to approve the Supplemental Academic Instruction Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

Western State Colorado University (WSCU) 2010 Facilities Master Plan – Tonya Gomez, Finance Policy Officer, along with Western State Colorado University President Jay Helman and the Vice President of Finance Administration Brad Baca presented this item to the Commission. The WSCU Facility Master Plan was approved by the WSCU Board of Trustees in March 2011. The previous plan was approved by the Commission in 2002.

President Helman stated that in the last 10 years the campus has built \$128 million in new construction renovation and deferred maintenance, all by way of various funding sources. Mr. Baca introduced eight total projects; four of which are state funded and four of which will be cash funded. The criteria used to determine the projects included in the Master Plan were funding availability, enrollment levels, program growth and community support.

As of February 2013, several projects have commenced or been completed since the Board of Trustees approved Western State Colorado University's Facilities Master Plan. In June of 2012, the "New Student Apartments" project was completed. In July of 2012, the "Field House/Student Recreation Center" broke ground. Both of these projects were carried-over to the 2010 Plan from the previous 2002 Amendment.

Commissioner Pacey moved to approve the Western State Colorado University Master Plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and unanimously passed.

Financial Aid Policy Corrections – Celina Duran, Financial Aid Administrator, told Commissioners that during the financial aid review process, members from institutions suggested that some of the definitions in the financial aid policy were outdated and needed to be revised. The prior version of the financial aid policy did not clearly state that the Colorado Merit programs are currently unfunded. The amended version includes that language in addition to the elimination of an affidavit that was required in the first year of the College Opportunity Fund and revises some of the definitions to align with those used by the U.S. Department of Education. The policy is unchanged in its substance regarding the financial aid allocation and award information; the changes are for clarification only.

Commissioner Polsfut moved to approve the Financial Aid Policy Corrections. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

Financial Accountability Plan (FAP) for Western State Colorado University (WSCU) – Mark Cavanaugh, Chief Financial Officer, informed the Commission that he would be presenting significant percentage tuition increases for both WSCU and Adams State University on behalf of the CCHE FAP Subcommittee, but he believes the tuition flexibility offered by Senate Bill 10-003, in a time of diminishing state resources, is operating exactly as it was intended to. It helps the institutions make end meet operationally and helps mitigate the impact of costs on Colorado's low and middle income students. Both universities had two-year FAPs approved by the Commission in 2011. WSCU's new FAP requests 14 percent in FY 2013-14, 12 percent in FY 2014-15, and 12 percent in FY 2015-16, although these "out year" levels are contingent on the availability of future state funding. Although the percentages are high, the dollar increase in tuition for a full-time resident student would be \$648 or \$27 per credit hour next year.

With respect to protecting low and middle income students, over the past two years WSCU increased institutional need-based financial aid by 25 percent and has grown its commitment to work study by 35 percent. In addition, Western will continue to hold Pell eligible as well as "Level 1" and "Level 2" students to one-half of the requested tuition increases.

Lt. Governor Garcia asked Mr. Baca if the 14 percent increase in tuition would decrease if the state raised their higher education funding higher than the projected \$30 million for next year. Mr. Baca said that their Board of Trustees would instead opt to put the extra funds into financial aid to further reduce the net effects of the tuition increase.

The CCHE FAP Subcommittee has sent this item to the Commission for approval. Vice Chair Pacey, is a member of the FAP Subcommittee. Although she understands that the institutions are

in a very difficult position, she thinks that the CCHE's job and mission and their master plan has been to ensure access and affordability and her fear is that raising tuitions and fees will price students out of access and affordability. Although Vice Chair Pacey understands that institutions don't have many avenues to take, she has to make a protest statement that the Commission has a duty to focus more on Goal 4 of the master plan – *Develop resources, through increases in state funding, that will allow public institutions of higher education to meet projected enrollment demands while promoting affordability, accessibility and efficiency.* She would like the Commission and institutions to think about and find avenues to increase student population and their use of facilities rather than raise tuition. Vice Chair Pacey stressed that this was not a commentary on the institutions or what they have to do, but rather that the Commission has to find real accessibility and real affordability and she doesn't think raising tuition is the right way to do it.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the Western State Colorado University for authorization of tuition setting through FY 2015-16 and approval of requested tuition increase levels included in the FAP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moses and passed with seven votes for and Vice Chair Pacey voting against.

Financial Accountability Plan for Adams State University (ASU) – Mark Cavanaugh, presented this item to the Commission on behalf of the CCHE FAP Subcommittee. Adams State University is requesting authority to increase resident tuition rates by 16 percent in FY 2013-14. ASU is counting on adequate state funding increases in FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16 to be able to hold tuition increases at nine percent in those years. If state funding does not increase next year, ASU will request tuition setting authority above nine percent at that time. The dollar increase for a full time resident ASU student next year would be \$618 or \$25 per credit hour.

A specific part of the ASU request is to convert \$17.36 per credit hour in “permanent” student fees into tuition because of changes in technology and controlled maintenance of campus facilities. Like Metro State, ASU found that some student fees are more appropriately characterized as tuition. The centerpiece of ASU's plan is called “Finish in Four,” a plan designed to encourage students to take more credit hours per semester and stay on track to graduate on time. In recent years ASU has shown success in increasing the number of credit hours taken with this program. Finally, in response to the fluctuations in federal PELL which is especially important to Adams State, a new program is being considered specifically to assist local San Luis Valley students during the remaining period of tuition flexibility.

Commissioner Moses moved to approve the Adams State University for authorization of tuition setting through FY 2015-16 and approval of requested tuition increase levels included in the FAP. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and passed with seven votes for and Vice Chair Pacey voting against.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Legislative Update – Chad Marturano, Director of Legislative Affairs, informed the Commission on the status of higher education-related bills currently in the legislature. He

reported that the Joint Budget Committee is holding figure setting for the Department of Higher Education on March 6th, when they begin the process of taking votes on the Governor's budget request for \$30 million or a 5.8 percent increase in higher education funding.

SB13-033 In-state Classification Colorado High School Completion - This bill has gone through both the House Education and Appropriations Committees and might be heard on second reading on the House floor as early as next week.

SB13-053 Exchange of Student Data K-12 and Postsecondary – This bill passed out of the Senate Education Committee, gone through the entire Senate process and is calendared to be heard in the House on March 18th.

SB13-165 Community Colleges Limited Number Bachelor Degrees – This bill contemplates allowing community colleges to seek approval from CCHE to offer up to 10 programs at the baccalaureate level and outlines guidelines for the Commission to consider. The bill has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee.

Another bill that will be coming from the Department, which originated in the CollegeInvest division, would provide the option for a direct deposit into a 529 college savings account on an individual's state income tax return forms.

AY2012 Report On Educator Preparation to General Assembly – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, presented the highlights of the Education Preparation Report. Among them were:

- Enrollment in education preparation programs have declined by 9 percent from 2010/11 to 2011/12
- The largest number of candidates are enrolled in elementary education preparation programs, followed by special education general and culturally and linguistically diverse education
- The largest program level enrollment decline was in mathematics and special education general which dropped 16 percent and 15 percent respectively.
- Minority students are still underrepresented in preparation programs

Commissioner Haynes was interested in hearing what the institutions are using as strategies to try to boost the declining numbers.

Colorado Community College System, Developmental Education Taskforce Update – Dr. Kim Poast, updated the Commission on the progress of the Developmental Education Taskforce. Recommendations proposed by the community colleges and passed by the Colorado Community College State Board are comprehensive in terms of redesigning remedial education. The first recommendation regards assessment and testing. The second is developing alternative pathways for students based on what their education pathway and career interests are. Third is combining college reading and composition or college English and reading into one course instead of two sections. Fourth is the integration of additional learners report services.

The object of this work is to accelerate students through the developmental education sequence, eliminate barriers for students as they are dropping out of the pipeline and to increase developmental and remedial success statewide.

Concurrent Enrollment Report – Dr. Beth Bean, Director of Research and Information, presented the highlights of the Concurrent Enrollment Report. Among them were:

- Colorado is emerging as a leader in concurrent enrollment in the nation regarding the number of students participating
- There are approximately 24,000 students currently participating in a dual enrollment program which comes out to one in five high school junior and senior students
- The program continues to grow with a 15.5 percent increase from last year
- There are 18 public colleges that have agreements with 304 local education providers and those numbers are expected to grow
- HB09-1319 accounts for 58 percent of concurrent enrollment; with remedial coursed accounting for 5 percent of that group.
- More females are participating than males and the number of minority students participating increase each year
- Students that participate matriculate at higher rates; 85 percent compared to 50 percent for non-participating students
- Students who take concurrent enrollment have higher credit hours: 33 credit hours the first semester compared to 18 credit hours for non-participants
- Students have higher GPAs and retention rates are much higher for the first year: 70 percent retention versus 58 percent retention

Having no further Commission business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm.