

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
University of Phoenix  
November 7, 2013

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.

Chairman Dick Kaufman, Commissioners Luis Colon, Jeanette Garcia, Happy Haynes, Monte Moses, Hereford Percy, Jim Polsfut and BJ Scott attended. Vice Chair Patty Pacey attended via conference call. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Senator Evie Hudak, Michael Mincic and Melissa Wagner. Advisors Frank Novotny and Laura Rutz attended via conference call.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2013 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2013 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and passed unanimously.

University of Phoenix Campus Director, Brent Seifried, welcomed the Commission to the Lone Tree campus.

#### **CCHE ADVISORY REPORT**

Mike Mincic, Faculty Advisor, reported that the Colorado Faculty Advisory Council (CFAC) met in conjunction with the P20 Summit meeting, October 18th. Mr. Mincic is the chair of the CFAC, which has one faculty representative from every state funded institution of higher education, representing all faculty at the institutions. The group meets twice a year and Mr. Mincic has worked to get the members to recognize the hard work the Commission does and to carry that information throughout the state. The department's Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Assistant Deputy Director for Academic Affairs, attended the meeting and shared the wealth of information on the department's website and the PowerPoint presentation that was introduced at the October CCHE meeting. Mr. Mincic will share the roster for this group with the Commission to potentially increase the audience for CCHE presentations around the state.

#### **CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Chairman Kaufman reported that he, Commissioner Colon, Senator Hudak, Jennifer Sobanet, Inta Morris and two other members of the team representing Colorado attended the Complete College America (CCA) Annual Convening in Salt Lake City, Utah, along with 35 other state teams to discuss policies CCA introduced to help students complete college.

Chairman Kaufman welcomed the new parent advisor, Melissa Wagner, to the CCHE Advisory Committee. Commissioner Haynes said the Commission would welcome periodic reports from the work that Ms. Wagner is doing in her organizations with any concerns, issues, and activities that have bearing on the work the Commission is doing. Ms. Wagner reported that she had

presented the new PowerPoint to two groups already, the El Paso Council PTA and a group of school accountability parents for Mountain Ridge Middle School, where Ms. Wagner is an Assistant Principal. She suggested making the url for the department website clear for people watching the PowerPoint. The website is mentioned in the accompanying video but there is no url for the website. Julie Poppen, Director of Communications, will address this issue.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director, Lt. Governor Joe Garcia, thanked the Commission for participating in the two extra meetings in October and November to vote on Capital Construction and the FY2014-15 budget.

Lt. Governor Garcia reported that he was with the Governor when the state's budget was presented to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and received positive feedback from the JBC Chair and other legislative members regarding the increase for higher education. Commissioner Haynes expressed appreciation for the increase in the budget and hoped there is a student centered approach to how well the dollars are being used to insure that the goals of the Commission and the state overall are being reached.

Lt. Governor Garcia also mentioned the defeat of Amendment 66. The administration had been hopeful that the proposed tax increase that would fund education reforms passed by the legislature and will now go back and attempt to find funding, without the tax increase, to support the reforms.

Also mentioned was the continuing work towards a new way of licensing educators, called the LEAD Compact, possibly through a legislative proposal to increase the number of teachers the state licenses, change the quality of individuals, licensed, reduce costs and make it easier for districts, especially rural districts, to find qualified teachers. The Lt. Governor also talked about legislation that would allow two year institutions, the associate granting institutions, to grant a limited number and limited types of four year degrees. The Commission will be involved in determining whether this is a direction the state should go and will have an agenda item concerning this at the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioner Moses asked that the Commission take a position, both specifically and generally, on this topic. Having both proponents and opponents of the legislation at the December meeting was requested, along with a staff analysis.

Lt. Governor Garcia reported that, going forward, there would be continued discussion on the role and responsibilities of CCHE. Jennifer Sobanet, Chief Operating Officer, will be building a schedule of presentations in the coming months about governance.

Steve Jordan, President of Metropolitan State University of Denver and the MSU Denver Board of Trustees Chair, Colorado State University System Chancellor Mike Martin and Lt. Governor Garcia met regarding the possible expansion of programs by the CSU System in the metro area. The discussion centered on exactly what CSU was proposing and what they were not and to clarify the direction they were going to see if that was something MSU Denver found acceptable or is this something that will come before the Commission. CSU is not planning on building a physical campus, but are asking for a limited presence into the south metro area and will be

offering programs they are already authorized to offer. Discussions with both President Jordan and Chancellor Martin will continue, as needed, on a staff level.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. George Walker, of Denver, commented on both the defeat of Amendment 66 and the loss of both Senate President John Morse and Senator Angela Giron in the recall elections, as he believes both were friends of education. Mr. Walker also supports CSU's President Tony Franks' report on higher salary attracting better teachers.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

### **Recommend Approval of Doctor of Psychology in School Psychology at University of Colorado Denver**

### **COF Eligibility for an Extended Studies Program for FY2014**

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

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**Recommend Approval of Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with Teacher Licensure at Colorado Mountain College** – Dr. Ian Macgillivray, joined by Colorado Mountain College (CMC) Interim President Dr. Charles Dassance, presented this item to the Commission. Joining by teleconference was Dr. Barbara Johnson, Director of Teacher Education at CMC. Dr. Macgillivray recalled that the General Assembly gave CMC permission to offer up to five bachelor's degrees and the Commission had approved two. This and the following two agenda items are the final three bachelor's degrees. The Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies will have the emphasis is elementary education licensure along with culturally and linguistically diverse education licensure. This will prepare teachers who teach English as a second language. The State Board of Education approved the education preparation content. Dr. Macgillivray reviewed the statutory responsibility for education preparation programs, admission system advising and supervised field based placement and recommends approval.

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with Teacher Licensure at Colorado Mountain College. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

**Recommend Approval of Bachelor of Applied Science at Colorado Mountain College** -- Dr. Macgillivray explained that the Bachelor of Applied Science is a BAF degree and that the only other four year public institution currently offering BAF degrees is Colorado Mesa University. Colorado Mountain College (CMC) offers many Associates of Applied Science (AAS) degrees that easily transfer into BAS degrees more cleanly than into a BA or BF degree. Also requested in this item is a waiver from having to include a full 31 credit gtPathways core.

Commissioner Percy asked about the heavy reliance of adjunct professors being used in a bachelor's degree program. Susan Looney, Interim Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Arts & Sciences at CMC, guaranteed that adjunct faculty will be fully credentialed and stated that there are many full time faculty and the majority of full time faculty teach in the career technical field.

Commissioner Polsfut asked how a determination of which of the widely dispersed campuses will offer the baccalaureate degrees is made. Dr. Dassance replied that CMC tried to offer the first two baccalaureate degrees at every campus but this was not a workable decision. The three bachelor's degree voted on today will start at two campuses and may expand, depending on demand.

Dr. Dassance and Dr. Macgillivray were asked if there had been any negative comments from the other institutions in the western part of the state about CMC's expansion. Both gentlemen replied they were not aware of any.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the Bachelor of Applied Science at Colorado Mountain College with a waiver from having to include the gtPathways curriculum. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

**Recommend of Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Colorado Mountain College** — Dr. Ian Macgillivray informed the Commission that CMC is well poised for this degree as they currently offer an associate's degree in nursing and have all the necessary lab equipment, space and teachers to provide a bachelor's degree pathway for students who are in or have completed the associate's degree in nursing.

Also requested in this item is a waiver from having to include a full 31 credit gtPathways core, as this is a specialized baccalaureate degree. Commissioner Garcia expressed concern that these waivers might open the door for future waivers, thus diluting the reason gtPathways exists and wondered who this might impact future decisions as the Commission sees more applied sciences degrees. Dr. Macgillivray replied that the performance contracts Addendum B states the Commission will not force baccalaureate degrees to have gtPathways curriculum and that baccalaureate programs can opt out of gtPathways. Dr. Dassance assured Commissioner Garcia that CMC would be very sensitive to the issue.

Dr. Dassance also brought greetings to the Commission from Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser, who will be starting as CMC's new President on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Colorado Mountain College with a waiver from having to include the gtPathways curriculum. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colon and unanimously passed.

**Recommend Approval of the 2014 Commission Meeting Schedule** – Chairman Kaufman mentioned that Commissioner Garcia suggested that the 2014 annual retreat be held at Pueblo Community College and CSU Pueblo and requested Commissioners to inform staff of any particular campuses they would like to hold next year's meetings.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the 2014 Commission Schedule. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy and unanimously passed.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Admissions Policy Revision Update** – Tamara White, Director of Admission and Access Policy, presented the revisions to the Admissions Policy. She explained that a task force had been meeting for the past 18 months throughout the state to discuss changes and gave an overview of the proposed changes. The suggestions include replacing the Index and Higher Education Admissions Requirements (HEAR) and incorporating new assessments with a more transparent academic performance indicators, such as an assessment score, GPA and rigor. Rigor will be defined by each institution and may include quality and quantity of high school course content. The recommendation also aligns the admissions policy with the remedial education policy. Each institution will be asked to develop their own minimum admission standard rather than have the Commission assign an index for them. They will also have the window to give them additional flexibility. Institutions will be asked to establish their minimum GPA standards. The policy will guarantee admission for AA and AS degrees and update the definition of a transfer student. With the removal of the index, a new communication tool will help students understand which institution(s) would be the best academic fit. The Department will develop a tool, to be managed by College In Colorado, that will show each institution's mid-50 percent range of admitted students for GPA and assessment scores. This detailed information will help students better determine the institution where they will be most successful.

The institutions will develop these minimum standards by December 2014.

Mr. John Marshall, Colorado Mesa University told the Commissioner that this policy draft puts forth a very good, public facing document that will better inform the families about the differences in institutions and the expectations for GPAs and classes taken in terms of rigor.

Kevin McClennan, Director of Admissions at University of Colorado Boulder, stressed the need for the policy to be inclusive for all students and believes the admissions process is a holistic review of students. Both Mr. McClennan and Mr. Marshall encouraged the department to give adequate time to collect and analyze data and in other ways implement the new policy.

Commissioner Polsfut noted that it would be difficult for high school counselors to guide a student on courses needed with admissions varying from institution to institution. Ms. White responded that the tool the Department is developing would help counselors determine which institution might be the best fit for a student.

The revised Admissions Policy will be brought to the Commission at their December meeting for approval.

**Remedial Policy Revision Update** – Tamara White, Director of Admission and Access Policy, presented the revisions to the Remedial Education Policy. She explained that a task force had been meeting for the past 18 months throughout the state to discuss changes and gave an overview of the proposed changes. The suggestions include increasing the number of

assessments that can be used to determine a student's placement, providing for the use of Supplemental Academic Instruction (SAI) as an alternative to traditional remediation and updating the testing timeline. The revised policy recommends a cut score of 18 for English and 19 for math, along with test scores for up to two years instead of five. The revised policy is aligned with the Colorado Community College System's new developmental education redesign.

The revised Remedial Education Policy will be brought to the Commission at their December meeting for approval.

## **INFORMATION ITEM**

**FY2014-15 Budget Update** – Mark Cavanaugh, Chief Financial Officer, reiterated the financial aid portion of the budget that was in the Executive Director's report. The \$30 million in need based financial aid gives the Commission, with their authority to allocate financial aid, more to work with in the upcoming fiscal year using the completion model.

December 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for the performance funding plan and staff have been working on a draft. This plan will be provided to the Commission at the December 5<sup>th</sup> CCHE meeting for approval.

The Governor's recommendation for capital construction projects was different than the list the Commission approved at the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, due to the administration preferring one time spending. Whereas the Commission approved 20 projects, the Governor's office approved two, the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs Fine arts building and the Auraria Higher Education Campus' (AHEC) library.

Commissioner Percy moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moses. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.