

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
Legislative Services Building  
February 13, 2015

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

Chairman Kaufman, Vice Chair Pacey, Commissioners John Anderson, Luis Colon, Jeanette Garcia, Vanecia Kerr, Hereford Percy, Regina Rodriguez, Paula Sandoval and BJ Scott attended. Commissioner Monte Moses attended via conference call. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Representative Jeni Arndt, Representative Mike Foote, Senator Nancy Todd, Stacie Amaya, Wayne Artis, Steve Kreidler, Dr. Toni Larson and Melissa Wagner.

Commissioner Percy moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2014 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Scott and passed unanimously.

Chairman Kaufman introduced and welcomed new Commissioner Paula Sandoval and new CCHE Legislative Advisors Representative Jeni Arndt, Representative Mike Foote, Student Advisor Stacie Amaya and CFO Advisor Steve Kreidler.

## **COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Commissioner Garcia read aloud a Resolution congratulating the CSU-Pueblo ThunderWolves for winning the National Collegiate Athletics Association Division II Football Title.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the CSU-Pueblo ThunderWolves Resolution. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Pacey and unanimously passed.

Commissioner Anderson reported that he had presented the CCHE PowerPoint to the La Plata Forum organization in Durango.

CCHE Advisor Artis informed the Commissioner that the Colorado Faculty Advisory Council will meet in Denver on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Lt. Governor Garcia reported that he appeared before the House and Senate Education Committees to make the case for all aspects of HB14-1319: incentivizing the schools to graduate students in different minorities and increase the graduation rates; the adjustment that asked for a 10% increase in General Funds in the budget and asked for \$15 million to ease the transition with the model; and the importance of closing the degree attainment gap between the majority and minority population

Lt. Governor announced that Brenda Bautsch, Research and Policy Analyst, would be leaving the Department of Higher Education and going to the K-12 system in the Department of Education.

As reported in an earlier CCHE meeting, the Department, in partnership with CDE, received a grant from the Kresge Foundation to implement a collective impact model for the FAFSA completion initiative. Thirteen states have signed on to participate and these states have successfully received and are implementing the FAFSA website application in their states, modeled on the Colorado version.

Lt. Governor Garcia addressed the issues around regulating yoga teacher training institutions by the Division of Private Occupational School (DPOS). He then proceeded to correct the misinformation in several printed articles by the Denver Post. He also told the Commission that DPOS is going through a sunset review that will have to go through the legislative process this year and if not passed, will lead to a wind-down of the program.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Frank Waterous, Senior Policy Analyst at the Bell Policy Center reported that he and the Center are supportive of the Prior Learning Assessment, along with the Talent Pipeline Report and the Skills for Jobs Act Report.

George Walker, of Denver, expressed his opinion that the state has always funded based on race and believes that TABOR should be repealed.

## **PRESENTATION**

Henry Sobanet, Executive Director of the Office of State Planning and Budget, gave the Commission a PowerPoint presentation on TABOR and the State Budget.

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

Chairman Kaufman noted that the Commission's review authority is statutorily limited to receiving three pieces of information for Cash-funded, non-Intercept projects and that the final decisions were made by the institution's governing board and the Capitol Development Committee.

**Degree Authorization Act: International Baptist College and Seminary Request for Authorization as a Seminary/Religious Training Institution** – Heather DeLange

**Degree Authorization Act: The King's University - Request for Authorization as a Seminary/Religious Training Institution** – Heather DeLange

**Degree Authorization Act: Westwood College – Los Angeles Wilshire – Request for Authorization as a Place of Business** - Heather DeLange

**Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List Amendment – Colorado State University – Fort Collins – Andrew Rauch**

**Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List – Colorado School of Mines – Andrew Rauch  
Recommend Approval of Bachelor of Science in Technology, Arts and Media at University of Colorado Boulder – Dr. Ian Macgillivray**

**Recommend Approval of Associate Degrees with Designation in Art History, Biology, Chemistry, English, Horticulture Business Management, Music, Physics, Studio Art, and Theater at the Colorado Community College System – Dr. Ian Macgillivray and Maia Blom**

**Recommend Approval of Master of Studies in Law at University of Colorado Boulder – Dr. Ian Macgillivray**

**Recommend Approval to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education Endorsement at Colorado State University - Pueblo - Dr. Robert Mitchell**

**Recommend Approval to Offer Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Bilingual Education Endorsement at the University of Colorado Boulder - Dr. Robert Mitchell**

**Recommend Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Unit at Fort Lewis College - Dr. Robert Mitchell**

**Fiscal Year 2015-16 Student Budget Parameters – Celina Duran**

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the consent items A through I. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colon and unanimously passed.

Commissioner Scott then moved to approve the consent items J through L. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously passed.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Statewide Prior Learning Assessment Policy – Dr. Rhonda Epper, Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer, Dr. Ian Macgillivray, Director of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Peter Smith, of the Kaplan Higher Education Group, presented this item for discussion. Dr. Epper told the Commission that this item recommended the Commission charge the Department, stakeholder councils, faculty, administrators, and other appropriate individuals at institutions of higher education with creation of a comprehensive, statewide Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) policy with common cut scores and evaluation mechanisms to assist the state in achieving Commission Master Plan Goals 1 & 3 to increase degree completion and close achievement gaps. The policy would be developed by these groups over a ten-month long process with recommendations due to CCHE in December 2015. A PLA state policy will eliminate inconsistencies between institution's PLA practices and students and institutions would benefit**

from such a policy, not just because it will serve students, but because it can also boost the institution's performance.

Dr. Peter Smith was the first board member of The Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) 35 years ago and said that the board wrote the principles of good practice for the assessment of prior learning. Dr. Smith sees PLA as an issue of fairness for those adults who graduate from high school and don't go to college until 10, 15 or 20 years later. This policy will correct the idea that what the student has done and learned don't count because they weren't in school doing it the way the school told you to. Research shows the PLA is a very good building block. He added that many traditional academics don't like it very much and see it as an invasion of their turf.

Dr. Macgillivray reviewed the goals for such a policy with the Commissioners. He stated that some common forms of PLA include AP, IB, and CLEP. Other types of PLA are challenge exams (also called "test out") and nationally recognized and published guides, such as those from American Council on Education, for people who have been in the work force or the military and can get college credit for their experience and learning. Seven states have set three as a minimum cut score on AP tests and that includes California state university system. Five more states have set a three as a minimum cut score on AP exams on almost all of them and four on IB exams. Dr. Macgillivray said that the research on PLA that included standardized tests for common cut scores demonstrates that PLA can have a positive impact on student success, degree completion and affordability without sacrificing quality.

Dr. Mike Lightner, University of Colorado System's Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs, opposed the goal of common cut scores on standardized exams, like AP, because he doesn't believe that using the same cut score in every subject in every academic context and in every institution can serve students in different programs or institutions' varied selectivities, roles & missions.

Mr. Frank Watrous, of the Bell Policy Center, expressed his strong support of the proposed idea for a PLA policy.

Dr. Jerry Migler, Colorado Community College System's Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, said that the CCCS also supported the proposed idea for a PLA policy. He said the institutions should recognize that prior learning needs to be addressed across the board at all schools. He said that what the department is doing is very much on the same line as CCCS.

Commissioner Percy supports the policy and said that the proposal "demands a conversation" to find the "twists and turns" of PLA.

Commissioner Rodriguez found the proposal to be compelling.

Commissioner Anderson also supports the policy.

Advisor Rep. Arndt expressed concern about national exams, like AP and IB, being flexible enough to represent the unique needs of Colorado.

Advisor Sen. Todd said she was excited about the policy but proposes the timeline be slowed down. She asked about students who transfer out of state and if their credits get applied at out of state schools.

Lt. Governor stated that Governor Hickenlooper thinks the policy is a good idea.

Commissioner Scott supports the policy and likens the proposal to better customer service. She thinks that the policy will help with transparency and eliminating barriers for students and that is especially important for students with military experience.

Commissioner Colon suggested the department keep current timeline but assess as the policy moves forward and try to conclude by the end of year. He supported looking at correlation between fewer opportunities for underrepresented minorities and cut scores that may be set too high.

Commissioners Kerr, Sandoval and Garcia also voiced their support. Commissioner Garcia said that it is known that PLA is good for students. She suggested not getting stuck on cut scores without working on the other option.

This proposal to begin a 10-month long inclusive process that leads to a recommended policy for CCHE to consider will be brought to the Commission for action at the March meeting.

**Recommendation to Approve Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part U: Policy and Procedures for Counting and Accepting American Sign Language Credits in Public Higher Education Institutions in Colorado** – Carl Einhaus, Director of Student Affairs, told the Commission that Institutions of Higher Education in Colorado identified areas of the current policy which were inconsistent and/or needed clarification. The most significant of these changes include substituting all mention of “foreign” language with “world” language and correcting the number of world language years required to satisfy Higher Education Admission Requirements.

This proposal will be brought to the Commission for action at the March meeting.

**Legislative Reports: Talent Pipeline Report and Skills for Jobs Act Report**– Dr. Lauren Victor, Research and Policy Analyst Officer. Due to lack of time for discussion, this item will be brought back to the Commission at the March meeting.

**Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget Update** - Tonya Covarrubias, Lead Finance Officer, told the Commission that on January 15<sup>th</sup>, the Governor’s Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) submitted a budget amendment to the Department of Higher Education’s Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> request to the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and the General Assembly. The January 15<sup>th</sup> Budget Amendment completely replaced the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> budget request and includes recommended allocations to governing boards, which reflects the results of the new HB14-1319 funding allocation model. The total dollar amount of the request, \$75.6 million General Fund, has not changed from the Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> request. However, the January 15<sup>th</sup> Budget Amendment lays out the details of how the requested money will be allocated to institutions and provides more details

about how proposed transition funding will be utilized. Additionally, as part of the January 15<sup>th</sup> request, the Governor also requested an additional \$250,000 for the Alzheimer Center at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.

There was no discussion due to the lack of time.

**Fiscal Year 2015-16 Financial Aid Allocation Model** – Celina Duran, Lead Finance Officer, reported that the Department has been actively engaged in soliciting feedback from the institutions and through that process institutions have offered feedback on options for allocation methods for the funding that will be appropriated.

The most recent financial aid data reflects a six percent reduction in Pell eligible FTE enrollment statewide, (a reduction of 4,876.5 FTE from the previous year). This change reflects the normal attrition that occurs following the influx of enrollments during a recession as the economy recovers. The majority of institutions have fewer Pell eligible FTE than in FY2013-14. The most significant drops in FTE were at non-profit private schools and community colleges.

This item will be brought to the Commission for action at the March meeting and will include models with both with the hold harmless figures and without.

**Legislative Update** – Kachina Weaver, Chief Legislative Officer, gave an update to Commissioners on the key bills that the Department is watching or is actively engaged with: two bills that would have an impact on the funding allocation model, SB 117 - which seeks to eliminate the additional funding provided based on the number of underserved students an institution is serving; HB 1156 – which would eliminate the performance counts of non-resident undergraduate completions, transfers, and retentions; SB 171 – which would reauthorize the Private Occupational Schools Act; SB 72 – which would modify the admissions standards of Metro State University; SB 118 – which would modify the state tax benefits for contributing to college savings plans; and, then pointed out that there are a number of proposals around workforce development, financial assistance, and student success proposals that we are watching.

Ms. Weaver then shared several Issue Briefs that the Department has developed on key issues of concern to Higher Education and promised that more would be forthcoming.

Commissioner Rodriguez moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Percy. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.