

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
At Colorado Department of Higher Education, 5th Floor Conference Room
April 5, 2019**

Commissioner and Advisor Learning Session

For the Learning Session this month, Commissioners heard from Carl Einhaus, Director of Student and Academic Affairs, about the Transfer Admission Guarantee and from Emily Burns, Lead Finance Analyst, about the Financial Aid Allocation Model.

I. OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman Luis Colón called the business meeting to order at 1 p.m.

A. Attendance

Chairman Luis Colón, Vice Chairman Renny Fagan, Commissioners Maia Babbs, Mary Beth Buescher, Stephanie Donner, Cassie Gannett, Jeanette Garcia, Vanecia Kerr, Pardis Mahdavi, and Tom McGimpsey.

CCHE Advisory Committee members attending: Wayne Artis, Chad Marturano, Rick Miranda, Misti Ruthven, Christina Powell, Rep. Julie McCluskie and Sen. Paul Lundeen.

B. Minutes

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2019 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buescher and passed unanimously.

C. Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners and Advisors Reports

Chairman Colon reported that he, Commissioner Fagan and Commissioner Buescher attended the Governor's signing ceremony for Senate Bill 19-095.

Commissioner Gannett reported that the Student Success Committee met this morning and discussed several of the items currently on today's agenda. They discussed a dispute resolution policy, guaranteed transfer pathways waiver process, reverse transfer, and legislative updates.

Commissioner Babbs reported that the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee met and continued the review of the funding allocation model through this month. The presentation on the agenda today is the final proposal developed through a lot of work by staff and the committee. They also discussed the IT scoring criteria that will be addressed later in the agenda.

Advisor Artis thanked Dr. Rasmussen, Christina and Carrie for helping put together the spring faculty conference on April 26th at Arapahoe Community College.

Advisor Ruthven thanked Dr. Paccione and DHE staff, particularly Michael Vente, for collaboration on the concurrent enrollment report that will be presented later in the agenda.

D. Executive Director Report

Dr. Paccione reported that last week the department hosted the CEOs for their monthly meeting and updated them on the affordability standard that we will review today.

Dr. Paccione is doing site visits to campuses around the state. Recently she visited Pueblo Community College with Commissioner Garcia. She also visited University of Northern Colorado, University of Denver, Regis University and Colorado Christian University and three private occupational schools, Cook Street, Aveda, and Galvanize. She visited Uplift as well, which is a program that serves at-risk high school students.

The Executive Director reported that the Long Bill is currently working its way through the House and will soon go back to the Senate. There is an amendment that might impact the department, so negotiations continue. She recognized staffer Chloe Mugg for doing an amazing job as our Legislative Liaison.

Dr. Paccione reported that CSU has hired a new president for the Fort Collins campus, Dr. Joyce McConnell. She will attend the investiture ceremony for President Andy Feinstein at UNC next week.

She recognized that this would be the last day of Suzanne Stark's 12-year career with the department and the commission. She thanked Suzanne for all her hard work and dedication all those years.

Chairman Colon also thanked Suzanne for her work on behalf of the entire commission. He wished her the best of luck in her retirement and welcomed a round of applause from all attending. She received a standing ovation from all attending.

E. Public Comment

Christina Postolowski, Colorado Director of Young Invincibles, presented research done by the nonprofit around an affordability analysis at four-year schools in Colorado. The analysis included four different student populations and found that overall, 48 percent of four-year institutions are not currently affordable in Colorado. She thanked the commission for considering this research as they discuss an affordability standard. She remarked that the definition of affordable really differs depending on who you are and your financial situation; increasingly we see young people today facing financial challenges in addition to the cost of college around housing, parenting, and work.

II. Consent Items

- A. Recommend Approval of Bachelor of Applied Science Program in Secure Software Development at Red Rocks Community College – Christina Carrillo**
- B. Recommend Approval of Middle School Math Endorsement at University of Colorado Denver, Colorado State University, Colorado State University-**

Commissioner Buescher moved to approve consent items A and B. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahdavi and unanimously passed.

III. Action Items

A. Fiscal Year 2019-20 Need-Based Financial Aid Allocation Model – Jason Schrock, Senior Director of Finance and Emily Burns, Lead Finance Analyst, CDHE summarized the FY 2019-20 Need-Based Financial Aid Allocation Model that Emily discussed during the learning session. The Commission approved staff's recommendation with +18 percent and -2 percent guardrails in the change in allocations to institutions from the prior year.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Proposed Capital IT Budget Request Scoring Criteria – Jason Schrock, CDHE Senior Director of Finance, discussed the capital IT budget request scoring criteria that was developed in consultation with the State Office of Information Technology, the Office of State Planning and Budgeting, and Joint Technology Committee staff. Institutions provided feedback on the criteria. Mr. Schrock discussed how IT capital is currently scored using the regular capital criteria, which results in IT projects being consistently scored lower. Changing the criteria would provide better justification for IT projects, more accurately signal their importance, and potentially result in more projects being funded. The commission decided to take action on the item given the accelerated budget process for the upcoming budget cycle. The commission approved the IT scoring criteria developed by department staff, contingent upon staff addressing all the questions received by institutions on the criteria.

This discussion item was moved to an action item. Commissioner Babbs moved to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and adopted unanimously.

B. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part K: Policies and Procedures For Conflict Resolution – Dr. Chris Rasmussen presented proposed revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part K: Policies and Procedures for Conflict Resolution on the Auraria Campus, which included an expansion of the policy to address resolution of disputes among public higher education institutions generally. He said the primary goal of an expanded policy is to minimize obstacles to effective inter-institutional cooperation in advancing the legislative objectives for higher education, and to enable fulfillment of systemwide postsecondary master planning goals. He distributed a hand-carry document that summarized proposed additions to the policy on principles and procedures for dispute resolution outside of the Auraria context. Following Commission discussion, the staff will discuss the proposed revisions and additions with stakeholder groups.

- C. CCHE Officer Elections** – Katrina Smith presented suggested revisions to the commission bylaw regarding the election of officers. The commission was provided with the current language as well as some suggestions for how this section may be revised.

This discussion item was moved to an action item. Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and adopted unanimously.

V. Budget and Legislative Update – Jason Schrock and Chloe Mugg

Budget Update -- Jason Schrock, CDHE Senior Director of Finance, provided an update on the Long Bill’s funding for higher education for FY 2019-20. The budget as it passed the House included a 13 percent across-the-board increase for all institutions to enable flat resident undergraduate tuition. Metropolitan State University was provided the ability to raise their resident undergraduate tuition by up to 3 percent. An amendment to the Long Bill passed to provide more funding to transportation by reducing funding to other departments; this amendment did not affect higher education funding. Mr. Schrock also discussed funding for capital projects for institutions in the budget. The budget contained less funding for capital projects than was approved by the Capital Development Committee. Mr. Schrock also provided an update on the new budget guidance from the Governor and the Office of State Planning and Budgeting on the FY 2020-21 budget process.

Budget requests are due one month earlier, in July, compared with prior years. Further, the guidance requires that each department submit overall budget requests that meet two budget targets: a 5 percent reduction in funding and a 2 percent increase. Mr. Schrock provided an update on the department’s plan for evaluating the higher education funding model. The department plans to review and evaluate changes to the model, potentially using assistance from other organizations and states, with a goal of providing recommendations to the commission by August. This would provide enough time for any revised funding model to be used for the November 1 budget request for FY 2020-21. The commission indicated that it would form a working group to participate in the funding model evaluation process.

Legislative Update - Chloe Mugg, Legislative Liaison, provided Commissioners with an update on the Department’s 2019 Legislative Agenda and Budget items. In addition, Ms. Mugg highlighted many bills impacting higher education that are currently in the legislative process.

VI. Commission Initiatives

- A. Master Plan Update: Campus Update** – Dr. Bolton, President of Pikes Peak Community College, provided the Commission with an update of the work his institution is doing to help the state meet its attainment goal. He also shared data on their progress.

- A. Master Plan Update: Colorado’s Attainment Progress** – Dr. Brandon McReynolds presented on the 2019 Colorado attainment progress; the data showed a .7 percent increase in statewide attainment. During the presentation, commissioners were informed about the new methodological framework being used by CDHE to calculate statewide attainment. The presentation and questions by commissioners also focused on a need for the state to address measuring non-degree postsecondary credentials.
- B. Draft Definition and Principles of Affordability** –Katie Wagnon and Emma Fedorchuk presented the new revisions that the affordability working group made to the working definition and guiding principles. There was also a brief overview of the affordability work that has been carried out by the Commission and DHE staff since August 2018. The Commission signaled that they would like to receive additional feedback from outside stakeholders and proposed this as a possible action item for the May CCHE meeting.

VII. Written Reports

- A. Concurrent Enrollment Report** – Michael Vente, Director of Research at the Colorado Department of Higher Education, shared updated Concurrent Enrollment numbers for Academic Year 2017-2018. The updated numbers are included in the *Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment, 2017-2018 Academic Year*, a joint report between the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Mr. Vente shared several highlights from the report, including statewide increases in Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT participation especially for minority students. Additionally, through Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT programs, 2,758 students earned some type of postsecondary credential in 2017-2018 while still in high school. This is a more than 37 percent increase over last year’s total credential completion number. Mr. Vente said CDHE continues to find ways to address barriers districts experience in offering Concurrent Enrollment to their students. Mr. Vente also outlined several research projects related to Concurrent Enrollment, including preliminary results from CDHE’s research funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences showing impressive postsecondary outcomes for Concurrent Enrollment students. Commissioners and advisors had questions regarding the different types of dual enrollment in Colorado. Mr. Vente provided a brief overview of the different types of dual enrollment and how the types are categorized.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm.