



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
At Morgan Community College, 920 Barlow Road, Ft. Morgan, Colorado  
June 6, 2019**

**Commissioner and Advisor Learning Session**

The Learning Session this month was a presentation by Chloe Mugg, Legislative Liaison, Senator Tammy Story, and Representative Cathy Kipp on the recent legislative session and department implementation plans.

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

Chairman Luis Colon called the business meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

**A. Attendance**

Chairman Luis Colon, Vice Chairman Renny Fagan, Commissioners Tom McGimpsey, Pardis Mahdavi, and Monte Moses. Commissioners Jeanette Garcia and Mary Beth Buescher joined by phone.

CCHE Advisory Committee members attending: Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Chad Marturano, Christina Powell, Misti Ruthven, Senator Tammy Story, Representative Cathy Kipp.

**B. President's Welcome**

Dr. Curt Freed, Morgan Community College President, welcomed the commission to campus. He presented information about the college, the campus and the community. He also discussed plans for a new science and technology center. Dr. Freed reviewed the work that's been done on the four strategic goals of the master plan.

**C. Minutes**

Commissioner Mahdavi moved to approve the minutes for the May 3, 2019 CCHE Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGimpsey and passed unanimously.

**D. Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners and Advisors Reports**

Chairman Colon announced that Commissioner Donner has been appointed to lead Emily Griffith Opportunity School. He congratulated her and thanked her for her time on the commission. Commissioner Mahdavi has been appointed Dean of the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University in Phoenix. He congratulated her and thanked her for her service to the commission. Chairman Colon recognized that Commissioners Moses and Garcia are both leaving the commission having fulfilled two four-year terms. They will be recognized at the close of today's meeting. He also recognized and thanked commissioners and staff currently working on the funding formula revisions.

Vice-Chair Fagan thanked Chairman Colon for the recognition of the funding formula work. He thanks the legislative team at CDHE for their efforts throughout the year and Dr. Paccione for leading the team through the legislative session. Vice-Chair Fagan said that this is a time of change for all with new a new administration and new legislators. He thanked Senator Storey and Representative Kipp for their work at the legislature and for advising the commission.

Commissioner Mahdavi thanked Chairman Colon and all the commissioners for the experience of serving on the commission. She loved being on the commission and learned a lot along the way. She invited anyone who might be in the Phoenix area to contact her and for all to stay in touch.

Advisor Ruthven thanked the commission on behalf of CDE Commissioner Anthes for the support. She reported that 54 K-12 education and adult basic education related bills passed this legislative session. Specifically, the concurrent enrollment bill passed and will require continued partnership with CDHE and school districts. Also, the career advising legislation will require work with CDHE, HEI's, work force centers, K-12 counselors, and adult basic ed advisors.

Advisor Miranda announced that Anne Nandel passed away a few weeks ago. She was a member of the Colorado Commission on Higher Ed for eight years back in the nineties and she served as chair for the commission for two of those eight, the final two years of her eight years on the commission. She was also a valued member of the CSU and Ft. Collins community.

Advisor Cavanaugh reported that Chancellor Chopp at DU will be stepping down at the end of June. Provost Jeremy Hapner will assuming the role of Chancellor. He recognized Chancellor Chopp for her inspirational leadership.

#### **E. Executive Director Report**

Dr. Paccione reported that the department's Chief of Staff, Amanda DeLaRosa has left to join Lumina Foundation. She was instrumental in making the transition to a new executive director easy. Applications for the position are currently being accepted. Dr. Paccione was able to attend some commencement ceremonies around the state this past graduation season. She mentioned the practice at Ft. Lewis College of graduates being allowed to wear Native American regalia or military uniforms. She suggested that all institutions should consider allowing this practice. There were numerous bill signings throughout the state, which were great to be a part of. Chloe Mugg will be leading staff in implementation of all the new legislation. Dr. Paccione recognized staffers Jason Schrock, Emily Burns, and Emma Fedorchuk for their work in the funding formula process. The CEO meeting this month included a learning session on block chain. Spencer Ellis was thanked for his part in coordinating that presentation. She met with the Executive Director of Public Safety to discuss the coursework police officers do while in the academy and whether or not those certificates are counted toward state completion goals. This question also applies to firefighters and EMTs.

#### **F. Public Comment**

Brandon Thierry, with the State Student Advisory Council reported to the commission. He explained that the original statute for the group limited participation to in-state

students. The group took this up as a legislative initiative and got the statute changed to include 14,000 students in the community college system to participate. The group conducted a survey on obstacles that face community college students and two clear obstacles came to light. Access to food is the first issue and the cost of textbooks is the second. The council is making plans to address both issues.

## **II. CONSENT ITEMS**

- A. Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List Amendment - Western Colorado University** - Lauren Gilliland
- B. Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List Amendment - Otero Junior College** - Lauren Gilliland
- C. Degree Authorization Act: Johns Hopkins University Request for Renewal of Provisional Authorization** – Heather DeLange

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve consent items A through C. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mahdavi and passed unanimously.

## **III. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part K: Policies and Procedures for Conflict Resolution Among Public Institutions of Higher Education** – Dr. Chris Rasmussen

The Commission discussed recommended changes to the existing conflict resolution policy, which expand its focus beyond the Auraria Center to address disputes among public institutions across Colorado. Changes included several recommendations made in response to stakeholder feedback and advice from the Colorado Office of the Attorney General. Staff also recommended changing the name of the policy to Policies and Procedures for Resolution of Disputes Among Public Institutions of Higher Education. Commissioner McGimpsey moved to accept staff recommendations; Commissioner Mahdavi seconded. Commissioner Fagan offered an amendment to strike from section 6.01.05 the language “and relies on the voluntary compliance of institutions with Commission decisions toward this end”. Commissioner Mahdavi seconded. The motion to amend passed unanimously. The original motion then passed unanimously.

- B. Confirmation of CCHE Advisors** –Katie Zaback

Section 3 of the Commission Bylaws defines the makeup of the CCHE Advisory Committee and the terms of service for each member. CDHE staff presented principles to guide the selection of non-legislative advisory committee members. Student Advisor Troy Fossett and CFO Advisor Chad Marturano were thanked for their service to CCHE. The Commission approved the following advisor appointments for 2019-2020: Wayne Artis from Pikes Peak Community College, Faculty Advisor; Kimberly Johnson from the Colorado Community College System, Student Advisor; Brad Baca from Western Colorado University, CFO Advisor; Mark Cavanaugh representing the Independent Higher Education Council (IHEC). All advisors will serve a two-year term except the student advisor who serves for a single year with the option to renew.

#### **IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

##### **A. Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Financial Aid Allocations- Emily Burns**

Emily Burns, Lead Finance Analyst led a discussion of the various types of state funded financial aid: undergraduate and graduate need-based aid, work-study, merit, and career and technical education. She also provided a recap of the in-depth analysis of the need-based financial aid allocation model which was also part of the April CCHE Learning Session. Ms. Burns went on to explain that the allocations being discussed would, if approved, be distributed to the various public and private institutions of higher education eligible for state-funded financial aid allocations in the upcoming 2019-2020 fiscal year.

##### **B. HB 19-1196 Proposed Interim Revisions to CCHE Policy VI, Part F: State Funded Financial Aid Policies - Emily Burns**

Emily Burns, Lead Finance Analyst explained that the recent passage of HB 19-1196 necessitates a series of changes to the CCHE policies governing state-funded financial aid to the eligible public and private instruction of higher education. These changes will be required because HB 19-1196 allows state-funded financial aid to be distributed to students qualifying for resident tuition under the SB13-033, otherwise known as ASSET. Given that students qualifying for resident tuition per SB 13-033, commonly referred to as ASSET students, are not eligible for federal financial aid and unable to complete a FAFSA, the existing processes for determining the level of need for all students eligible for state-funded financial aid are no longer viable. Also given the decentralized nature of financial aid packaging and the existing infrastructure for delivering institutionally funded financial aid to ASSET students, Ms. Burns recommended the approval of an interim policy, which would allow institutions to use their existing institutional methodology for determining need of individual ASSET students and packaging aid accordingly. CDHE staff is in the process of developing a statewide aid application and methodology for ASSET students. Staff anticipates this process to be completed by the September CCHE meeting. There was discussion of the legality of such an interim policy change, especially in light of the politically sensitive nature of HB 19-1196. The questions were raised by Commissioner Moses who asked CDHE staff to work with the Colorado Attorney General's Office to ensure the legality of the interim policy revision. Pending a positive answer from the Colorado Attorney General's Office, Commissioner Moses made a motion to move this item from discussion to action, the motion was granted unanimously. CDHE staff has since received confirmation from the Colorado Attorney General that it is within the legal purview of the CCHE to create a temporary interim policy to allow the use of existing institutional methodology to determine need for ASSET students while a statewide application and policy is developed.

##### **C. Budget Update – Jason Schrock**

Jason Schrock, Senior Director of Finance, CDHE provided an update on the Department's work on developing the FY 2020-21 budget requests due to the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSPB) on July 1. For this budget submission, each state department must submit requests that meet two budget targets: a 5 percent reduction in funding and a 2 percent increase.

Mr. Schrock discussed the information submitted from higher education institutions in response to the 5% reduction scenario. (Only state funding for higher education institutions is subject to the budget targets, not their tuition or other funding.) The Department plans to provide a summary of the reductions in programs and services that institutions submitted, and the impacts on their operations, in the 5% reduction budget scenario submission to OSPB. Mr. Schrock also indicated that, in addition to the 2% increase and 5% reduction scenarios, the Department will be submitting a separate request for a larger increase in state funding to institutions. This request will be submitted in order to help institutions continue to make progress on Master Plan goals, including on affordability and improving student success.

Mr. Schrock also noted the other budget requests for Department programs. Some of these requests are for maintaining the operations of existing programs, while others are for new initiatives to help the Department and higher education institutions meet Master Plan goals.

Inta Morris, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer, CDHE provided an update on the evaluation of the higher education funding model. She discussed the new draft framework for the formula that was developed based on feedback the Department has heard on the model, including from the Funding Formula Working Group. The new formula is intended to have increased alignment with the Master Plan, especially regarding addressing the equity gaps in higher education, and also to have greater predictability and transparency.

Department staff will be developing more detailed model options based on the new overall model framework and will present the options at the Funding Formula Working Group meeting on June 26. The CCHE is scheduled to meet on the funding formula on July 9.

## **V. COMMISSION INITIATIVES**

### **A. Open Educational Resources (OER) Updates - Spencer Ellis**

- Staff briefed the Commission, Advisors and others on statewide OER activities as part of the implementation of HB18-1331. Staff highlighted the statewide trainings, workshops, professional development opportunities and statewide OER Conference, all of which address statute directives. Staff noted several small updates regarding the OER grant program and confirmed the Commission would receive the first annual report, along with the JBC and Education Committee, by the October 1 deadline.

### **B. 2019 CCHE Retreat Update – Katrina Smith & Katie Zaback reviewed**

logistical details for the upcoming retreat in Durango on July 24-26. Questionnaires regarding travel plans were distributed to commissioners and advisors in attendance.

*Closing presentations by Luis Colon – Commissioners Moses and Garcia were presented with proclamations in recognition of their many years of service to the commission. Both will also receive state flags that were flown over the capitol in their honor.*

*There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.*