



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
At Colorado Department of Higher Education, 1600 Broadway, Suite 2300  
February 7, 2020**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Chair Tom McGimpsey called the business meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**I. Opening Business**

**A. Attendance**

Commissioners attending: Chair McGimpsey, Vice Chair Kerr, Abramson, Buescher (by phone), Colon, Gannett (by phone), Hughes (by phone), Olena, Trujillo (by phone), Tucker (by phone), Executive Director Paccione.

Advisors attending: Rep. Kipp, Rep. McCluskie, Wayne Artis (by phone), David Olguin, Brad Baca, Christina Powell, Colleen O'Neil (for Misti Ruthven).

**B. Minutes**

Commissioner Olena moved to approve the minutes for the December 5, 2019 Commission Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abramson and passed unanimously.

**C. Chair, Vice-Chair, Commissioners and Advisors Reports**

Chair McGimpsey reported that a number of Commissioners attended the Board Training Session on January 7<sup>th</sup>. It was valuable training and all Commissioners are encouraged to attend the next session. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner Colon and Chair McGimpsey attended the Governor's State of the State address. It was good to see unifying themes throughout the state, including higher education. On January 13<sup>th</sup>, Chair McGimpsey attended the JBC Hearing with Dr. Paccione. This year will be a breakout year for the Commission in terms of what needs to be done and the focus that the commission has.

Commissioner Tucker reported that the Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee met a few weeks ago and discussed primarily the capital scoring formula. The committee is looking at maintaining the same capital scoring structure for FY 2021 and 2022. The



main focus in the meetings was to allow universities to increase their proposed cash contribution but after the initial submission, it would not allow the scoring to adjust. We are establishing a capital scoring review working group. It will meet several times over the coming months to discuss a better capital scoring formula for subsequent years. We also received an update on the funding formula. The funding formula is still working towards an initial 10 percent allocation in the funding formula but eventually working up towards 100 percent over the coming years.

Commissioner Gannett reported on the meeting of the Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee. The SSAA Committee met to discuss the process for reviewing degree programs, which is on the agenda later today. Specifically, the committee's focused on the review process in relation to general academic programs that the Commission approves and how to ensure it is consistent with teacher prep programs. The committee also discussed how to ensure that policies are in place to protect students, given state regulations, federal regulations, and how federal funding will come into play. The committee's second agenda item pertained to the placement tools used for the developmental classes – specifically pre-requisite courses and the manner affected students are supported. The question is: How do we support student outcomes for Colorado's students while clarifying policies for student eligibility for college level courses.

The committee also discussed placement tools used for developmental classes and how we connect with students. We want to make sure that we are supporting outcomes for students. These conversations will be continued.

Commissioner Olena reported on the creation of the Ad Hoc Affordability Committee. She and Commissioner Hughes have not met as a working group yet, but they will connect and report back on the structure this will take and their approach to the work. This will also be discussed further at the end of this meeting.

Advisor Artis reported that the College Faculty Advisory Committee met at CDHE last week and will report at the next meeting.

Advisor Baca reported that the CFO group is working collectively to develop a funding allocation model that we can all come to a consensus on. The group hopes to present their new recommendation to the legislature joint budget committee within the next week. At that point, they will share it with the commission staff and department staff and hopefully all can come into alignment.

Advisor Representative Kipp reported on HB20-1280. This bill is being revised to lower the fiscal demand for the department to implement. Senate Bill 6 and Senate Bill 31 for COSI and the Student Success Innovation pilot continue through the process and probably will end up with less money than originally planned.



#### **D. Executive Director Report**

Dr. Paccione reported that the Department has been executing on all strategies to address the objectives in the master plan. These activities were reported to the Joint Education Committee during the Smart Act presentation. The Department also presented the budget request to the JBC. The supplemental request for getting started on the Chief Equity Officer was not approved. This is still in the budget, so the position posting may be done in early July for the new fiscal year.

The Department hosted several events as reported in part by Chair McGimpsey. In addition to those, there was also an open house for legislators and the joint education committee. It was a huge success. COSI day at the capitol also was a success as well as International Day at the capitol.

The Department also launched two new initiatives. The Higher Ed Policy Fellows, who consist of graduate students in higher education and public policy, met for the first time to learn how state policy is formed and where the Department gets its ideas. Community Townhall Meetings is the other new initiative. These meetings will happen once a month around the state. The purpose is to discuss the importance of continuing one's education after high school – whether it's completing a one-year certificate or associates degree or a four-year or technical college.

The Department hosted John King, Jr. He is the President and CEO of Education Trust and was the U.S. Secretary of Education under Obama in his last year. He joined in our TIE grant convening with our equity champions and the campus diversity officers. We appreciate that quite a few of our commissioners participated.

Dr. Paccione has undertaken a number of recent campus visits, including CU Anschutz, CU Boulder, Community College of Denver, and CU Denver. Finally, the Department appreciates that CSU Chancellor Frank, CU system President Kennedy, and CCCS Chancellor, Joe Garcia hosted Dr. Sandy Baum. Dr. Baum is an internationally recognized expert on higher ed economics, especially college affordability and student debt. We appreciate her time in Colorado and speaking on Colorado postsecondary economics/

#### **E. Public Comment**

Dr. David Lemfield. Dean of the College of Science and Math at CSU Pueblo and Dr. Chad Kenney, Director of the Institute of Cannabis Research at CSU Pueblo commented via phone on the proposed cannabis biology and chemistry degree on the Commission's agenda. The proposed degree's foundations are nearly a double major in chemistry and biology. The burgeoning industry around cannabis that includes both industrial hemp and marijuana is in desperate need of trained scientists and this degree aims to satisfy that need through two emphasis areas: a natural products emphasis which is more on the biology side; or an analytical chemistry emphasis which is more on the chemistry side. The program also will prepare students for work in chemistry, biology, natural products or other scientific fields as well as allow them



to enter graduate school or professional school in any number of areas with the correct selection of electives.

## II. Consent Items

- ~~A. Recommended Grants for 2019-20 OER Grant Program – *Spencer Ellis*  
(moved to Action Items)~~
- B. Degree Authorization Act – Colorado College – Recommendation for the Renewal of Authorization – *Heather DeLange*
- C. Degree Authorization Act – Ashford University – Recommendation for the Renewal of Authorization as a Place of Business – *Heather DeLange*
- D. Recommendation for Approval of Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part T: Student Complaint Policy – *Heather DeLange*

Commissioner Abramson moved to approve Consent Items B-D. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Olena and passed unanimously.

## III. Action Items

- A. Recommended Grants for 2019-20 OER Grant Program– *Spencer Ellis*

Staff presented the list of final candidates for the second cohort of OER Grantees. The 34 proposals will be funded with an available \$1million. These proposals were identified during the comprehensive review process from December 2019 to January 2020. Staff noted that funding was intended to reach the broadest, most qualified field of candidates from the applicant pool. Staff highlighted current recommendations and alignment of the OER initiative to broader CDHE and Commission goals, and invited Commissioners to continue to advise on future operations and strategy of the initiative.

The Commission approved the recommendations to award the \$1 million, per authority identified in statute. Funds will be awarded in three payments, with first installment occurring no later than March 2020.

## IV. Discussion Items

- A. Proposed Bachelor of Science degree in Cannabis Biology and Chemistry at Colorado State University-Pueblo– *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Chris Rasmussen, Director of Academic Affairs, presented the proposed degree program, which requires Commission approval per HB 19-1311. This bill created the Institute of Cannabis Research at CSU-Pueblo and established a requirement that institutions consult with the Institute in developing any cannabis-specific curricula. The bill also amended statute to give the Commission authority to approve any cannabis-related degrees and certifications. Dr. Rasmussen summarized the due diligence process engaged by the staff in reviewing the program proposal and bringing a recommendation for approval to the Commission. Additional testimony was provided by Dr. David Lehmpuhl, Dean of the



College of Science and Mathematics at CSU-Pueblo, and Dr. Chad Kinney, Director of the Institute of Cannabis Research.

Commission Abramson motioned to move the agenda item from discussion to action. Commissioner Colon seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Commission Colon then moved to accept the staff recommendation to approve the degree program. Commissioner Abramson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

## V. Commission Initiatives

### A. Second Chance Scholarship Program – *Sarah Pak*

Sarah Pak, program coordinator of the Second Chance Scholarship Program, presented the new state scholarship for formerly incarcerated juvenile offenders. This is an untapped postsecondary student population that can contribute to meeting the Commission’s goal of 66% credential attainment by 2025 in its masterplan. She provided a brief overview of Senate Bill 19-231 which created the scholarship. The legislation defines the term “Committed” as individuals who were convicted of a serious crime in juvenile court and have served sentences in a secure Division of Youth Services facility. Ms. Pak informed the Commission of the scholarship timeline and the Advisory Board’s deliberations regarding applicant eligibility criteria and types of credentials the scholarship will support. The scholarship will be launched and start accepting applications on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Commission expressed its support for the new scholarship initiative and asked the program coordinator to communicate the official launch announcement to share with their stakeholders.

### B. Funding Allocation Formula Update – *Jason Schrock, Emily Burns and Emma Fedorchuk*

Jason Schrock, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on current funding allocation formula revisions. He indicated that much has been accomplished since the last Commission update and the Department expects a final formula proposal will be available soon. The Department continues to ensure that the formula will meet the goals of the Commission and the Governor’s office, including an alignment with the Master Plan, a focus on equity, a strong outcomes-based component, and able to provide funding stability to institutions. Mr. Schrock indicated that the Department intends to have details to share soon and requested the Commission hold a special meeting to discuss the proposed formula as soon as it is available. Any proposed formula needs to be submitted to the legislature by March 1 in order to be considered for the FY 2020-21 budget.



## B. Legislative Update – *Chloe Mugg*

Chloe Mugg, Legislative Liaison, and Alex Brown, Legislative Intern, provided Commissioners with an update on the Department’s 2020 Legislative Agenda and Budget items. In addition, Ms. Mugg highlighted a number of bills impacting higher education that are currently in the legislative process.

## D. Ad-Hoc Committee on Cost Containment and Affordability– *Dr. Ben Boggs, Katie Zaback and Committee Chairs*

Ben Boggs, Chief of Staff, updated the Commission on the Department’s execution of *The Roadmap to Containing College Costs and Making College Affordable* (a.k.a. *The Roadmap*). The *Roadmap* has three sets of goals: short-term, medium-term and long-term. The nine short-term goals are not completed, but the institutions are addressing them. The six medium-term goals are more challenging, but process and procedures are in place to meet them (i.e. create a three-year bachelor’s degree program). The three long-term goals are focused on responses to rapidly changing technological and economic conditions and opportunities.

The Department’s response plan has three components: the institutions, the Department and the Commission. The Department is determining which divisions have primary responsibility for specific goals and which components of our institutional partners (academic affairs, finance and budgeting, data and research) are involved. He noted that the institutions’ actions are the key to the *Roadmap*’s success, and they are already committed to enhancing operational efficiencies. They also are seeking innovative partnerships to share resources and systems. The Commission – through the Ad Hoc Committee – is best suited to focus on the long-term goals. This is an opportunity to consider the direction of the future of higher education and how our institutions can position themselves to serve Colorado’s changing economic, workforce, and community needs in an efficient, affordable and high-quality manner.

## VI. Written Reports

Best in Class: Five Principles of Effective Educator Preparation –  
*Dr. Brittany Lane*

Brittany Lane shared the best practice report required by SB19-190 that identifies five high level principles that all education preparation providers (EPPs) should adhere to with three or four high quality practices under each. EPPs are currently submitting their self-assessments on each of the practices and their top three goals aligned to the principles/practices. The report also informed SB20-158 that will create new standards required for educator preparation program (re)authorization. Should that bill pass, new CCHE policy will be drafted to align with the standards.

