

Academic Council

June 11, 2019 – 1:00 - 3:00pm
Colorado Department of Higher Education
1600 Broadway – Suite 2200, Denver, CO 80202

Call-in Number: 1-877-820-7831; Access code: 368215#

To join the webinar: <https://enetlearning.adobeconnect.com/academic-council/>

Notes – DRAFT (not yet approved)

1. Greetings and Introductions

- In attendance: Mark Anderson (UNC); Tom Christensen (UCCS); Katherine Eggert (UCB); Karen Ferguson (CSU-Global); Vicki Golich (MSUD); Kurt Haas (CMU); Michael Lightner (CU System); Deb Loper (CMC); Gillian McKnight-Tutein (FRCC); Rick Miranda (CSU); Bill Niemi (WCU); Landon Pirius (CCCS); Scott Reichel (Aims); Linda Van Doren (EGTC); Kim Poast (CDHE); Chris Rasmussen (CDHE)

2. Approval of May Meeting's Notes

[see handout: 2019-05-14- NOTES-AC.pdf]

- Notes approved

3. Announcements and Discussion

a. CCHE Meeting Debrief

- Kim, Chris, and Rick provided a summary of the June 6 CCHE meeting. Four Commissioners are concluding their service: Commissioners Garcia and Moses have reached the end of their terms; Commissioner Mahdavi accepted a deanship at Arizona State; and Commissioner Donner was named president of Emily Griffith Technical College.
- The Commission is looking at the processes used to identify advisors to the Commission, with an eye toward expanding opportunity and ensuring representation from different institutional types and areas of the state. The Commission confirmed the nominations of new and continuing advisors: Wayne Artis (CFAC rep, PPCC); Brad Baca (CFO rep, WCU); Mark Cavanaugh (independent institutions, IHEC); and Kimberly Johnson (student rep, ACC)
- The following item was presented for discussion only but the Commission voted to take action pending a review by COAG: HB 19-1196 Proposed Interim Revisions To CCHE Policy VI, Part F: State Funded Financial Aid Policies.

b. 2019 Legislative Session and CDHE Implementation Planning

- The session ended with all six of the Department's priority bills being passed and signed by the governor. Kim and Chris outlined the steps being taken to implement bills related to educator loan forgiveness, expanding concurrent enrollment opportunities, developmental education/Supplemental Academic Instruction, state financial aid for ASSET students, and review of the higher education funding formula.
- A "Dear Colleague" letter will be sent to institutions in the near future addressing several key components of the aforementioned and other bills (including "Ban the Box" legislation).
- Staff clarified certain provisions of the dev ed/SAI bill (HB19-1206). The bill authorizes four-year institutions to offer SAI without obtaining approval from the Commission; however, the Commission will continue to require that institutions inform the Department about their SAI courses and provide data on student success to enable the Department to meet legislative



reporting mandates on developmental education. It is likely that minor revisions to CCHE Policy I, W (Supplemental Academic Instruction) will be made in the near term to address this change.

- A more comprehensive revision of CCHE Policy I, W, and Policy I, E (Developmental Education) will be made later this year or early 2020 to address broader statutory changes around delivery of basic skills courses, which will require institutions to submit plans in 2021 and implement changes by 2022. These policy revisions will require an extensive stakeholder process. Staff noted that the broader changes in developmental education policy (moving away from traditional, pre-requisite remediation, and toward co-requisite remediation) applied only to those institutions already authorized by statute to offer basic skills courses (community college system institutions, local district colleges, Adams, Mesa, and Western (for students from Gunnison and Chaffee Counties only).

c. CCHE Policy on Dispute Resolution Among Public Institutions (Section I, Part K)

- The revised policy was approved by the Commission on June 6. Staff thanked members of Academic Council for their input.

d. Review of Statute and CCHE Policies on Graduate Program Creation, Review, Reduction, and Discontinuance (CRS 23-1-107 and CCHE Policies Section I, Parts C, G, S, V)

- Following previous discussion of graduate program duplication as a potential area of conflict among institutions, Chris reviewed statute and CCHE policy related to program approval, review, duplication, and discontinuance in general. In 2017, the General Assembly passed SB 17-297, which gave institutions authority to create and implement academic programs at the undergraduate and graduate level without Commission approval, provided the program is aligned with the institution's role and mission (with certain exceptions, e.g., ed prep programs and BAS programs at community colleges).
- The Commission retains statutory authority to review graduate programs and direct institutions to discontinue programs that are deemed duplicative. The Commission also retains statutory authority to require institutions to submit plans for the periodic review of each academic program. SB 17-297 also included language enabling the Commission to waive provisions of 23-1-107 related to program review and evaluation.
- Four existing CCHE policies address this in some capacity. Chris shared a document that summarizes relevant language from statute and from Commission policies. Discussion ensued about possible courses of action given the Department's interest in aligning CCHE policies with statute, ensuring that the interests of the Commission remain intact and articulated accurately in policy, eliminating redundant and conflicting language, and reflecting the appropriate roles of institutional faculty, campus administrators, governing boards, CDHE, and CCHE.

e. CCHE Prior Learning Assessment Policy Evaluation Proposal

- Chris shared a document that summarizes the Department's proposed plans for evaluating the Commission's Prior Learning Assessment policy (Section I, Part X), which was revised in May 2018. The proposed plans were informed by a working group meeting in February with representatives from provosts/deans, registrar's, and institutional research offices. The proposal includes several research questions that address the efficacy of the policy and the relationship of credit awarded for prior learning in various forms (e.g., national exams, military experiences, challenge exams, and portfolio review). The proposal also outlines the data that might be collected, some of which institutions already collect and some of which would require new efforts (including new SURDS fields).
- The proposal was shared with the Registrar's Council on June 4 and will be presented to the Data Advisory Group on June 21. Based on input from stakeholders the proposal will be revised, and the Department will prepare a revised proposal for comment, likely in late summer or early fall.

f. Extended Studies Funding Requests for FY20

- Chris shared the requests received for 2019-20 COF funding of selected academic programs offered by institutions at physical sites removed from the campus. Four requests will be submitted to the Commission in late July with a staff recommendation for funding. An additional request was for support for a specific institution's online bachelor's degree programs (and individual online courses taken by resident students). The proposal raises several questions about how institutions are interpreting statute and COF policy as it relates to courses delivered online and through other non-classroom-based modalities. It was noted that the lines have become blurred around who is an online student and who is not, and who is a resident student and who is not, and some definitive guidance from the Department on the funding of online instruction would be helpful. Chris indicated that a cross-divisional team within CDHE will be examining the CCHE Extended Studies and related policies with the aim of providing such definitive guidance to inform institutional planning for 2020-21 and beyond.

g. Review structure, format, and effectiveness of Academic Council

- Kim led a discussion focused on how we can maximize the usefulness of Academic Council meetings, both for the Department and for members of the Council. It was mentioned that members of Council could be invited in advance to suggest items for meeting agendas. It was also noted that the most valuable part of the meetings is when Council members are able to engage in discussion with each other about institutional practice, and about proposed Commission policies/interpretations and implications for institutions. Information sharing from the Department is helpful but could also be done via email/memo.

4. New, modified, and closed programs

New

Colorado Mesa University

- A.A.S. in Mechatronics
- A.A.S. in Veterinary Technology
- Undergraduate Certificates
 - Editing and Technical Communications
 - Mechatronics
 - Real Estate
 - Unmanned Aircraft Systems
- B.A. in Art History
- Graduate Certificate, Initial Teacher Licensure K-12 Physical Education

Colorado State University

- Professional Science Master's (P.S.M.) in Biomanufacturing and Biotechnology

Colorado State University-Global Campus

- Graduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- M.S. in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Colorado State University-Pueblo

- B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies

Modified

None

Closed Programs

Colorado Mesa University

- Public Safety Diving Undergraduate Certificate
- Visual Communications Undergraduate Certificate
- Health Information Technology Systems Graduate Certificate