

CFAC Spring Meeting Minutes

February 19, Metro State University

In Attendance: Wayne Artis, (Pikes Peak CC), Jeff London (MSU-Denver)), Nick Saenz (Adams State), Jo Ann Beine (Arapahoe CC), Kelly O'Dell (CC of Aurora), Jessica Kruger (Colorado Northwestern CC), Candace Garrod (Red Rocks CC), Fred Boettcher (Otero JC), Phil Crossley (Western), Sierra Swearingen-Todd (CU-Boulder), Terry Bridgman (CO School of Mines), Matt Stillwell (Front Range CC), James Ayers (Colorado Mesa), Ronda Monheiser (Northeastern JC).

Guests: Ian Macgillivray, Director of Academic Affairs, DHE; Austin Miller, Treasurer *DGX* (Metro chapter, Criminal Justice and Criminology Honor Society)

9:30-9:45 Welcome, Sheila Rucki, Faculty Senate President, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Reminds us to consider the importance of Higher Ed as a public good, and a community good, that not only offering students a private benefit, and to fund accordingly. That access to education and funding need to be considered in this light, and not continue to rely on tuition increases which threatens to reduce access; viewing education as a private good can lead to expectations that tuition increases are the appropriate mechanism for funding.

9:45-10:15 Chair Welcome and Report (Wayne Artis)

We are invited to express any concerns about the Prior Learning Assessment policy development process or gtPathways revisions process to the DHE, but notes that there has been general agreement across institutions—due to the decision to separate policies for General Education credit from specific degree program requirements.

10:15-11:30 Academic Affairs Update— (Ian Macgillivray)

Prior Learning Assessment

- The DHE's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) recommendations regarding Statewide common cut scores for AP (3) and IB (4) exams for General Education credit, and to automatically transcribed accordingly, approved by the CCHE Commissioners. For PLA credit for science courses, a lab component must be demonstrated. Individual institutions and programs will be allowed to set different cut scores for entry into specific degree programs, due to considerable faculty concern that the proposed AP and IB cut scores may not be adequate preparation for success in upper level courses within certain degree programs. This policy will now be in effect after July 1, 2016.

Concern expressed by some faculty around implications to students that credit for AP courses also means likelihood of success in the subsequent coursework when scores of 3 and 4 (AP and IB respectively) may well be more indicative of students likely to struggle.

- Discussions regarding other forms of PLA (e.g CLEP and DSST), and some complications regarding institutions that only assign GE elective credit not gtPathways specific credits, are ongoing though CCHE approval of final recommendations is anticipated in April 2016. Discussions of Portfolio Assessment and other PLA measures upcoming.

- Transfer guides/Articulation Agreements have been revised to reflect these PLA changes, and are easily consulted on the DHE\Educators and Administrators website (<http://highered.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/>). Noted that the pages are regularly updated and the most recent version should always be consulted.

gtPathways Revisions

- Proposed revisions to gtPathways Competencies and Content standards, developed in conjunction with consultants from the AAC&U and Colorado faculty (at a sequence of Fac2Fac meetings) now being presented to institutions for additional faculty feedback (by Mar 1). Expect some minor revisions before final approval later this spring.
- Reminds that individual faculty and programs will be free to require and assess additional competencies and content.

Concern expressed about HLC policies regarding qualifications. Ian offers to relay CFAC concerns to HLC at the HLC conference in April (see Open Discussion comments below).

11:30-12:30 Legislative Update (Kachina Weaver, Chief Policy Officer, DHE)

DHE tracking quite a few bills, and especially those potentially affecting the COF allocation and others that impact funding and the new funding formula. Other bills noted for potential to interfere with existing policies (and some currently being revised) regarding Concurrent Enrollment, Prior Learning Assessment.

- Colorado currently the 2nd lowest state in the country for public higher ed. funding. DHE advocating for better balance of general funding for “Core costs” of providing higher education and tuition funding. Includes expectation that tuition increases would be capped in any year in which general funding is increased above the core costs, but not in years when general fund is decreasing.
- JBC still expecting a 20 million cut to higher ed. due to TABOR ratchet provision. The proposed conversion of the Hospital Provider fee into an Enterprise category that doesn’t affect the General Fund, and how this would impact the TABOR limit to funding would only be a temporary reprieve even if it passes.
- Several bills are of note due to their potential implications for existing programs and processes.

HB 1197 focuses on credit for military training. Unclear how this would correspond with the PLA process and policies currently being developed.

HB 1144 would require high schools to clearly communicate to parents and students about post secondary coursework that is not guaranteed to earn higher education credit. The bill does not appear to take into consideration the PLA policies currently being developed.

HB 1116 also proposes required concurrent enrollment opportunities for students at any institution without taking into consideration existing policies and how the proposed changes would influence funding or complexities of enrollment and instructor qualifications. DHE providing additional feedback to the sponsoring Rep.

SB 104 Rural Teachers Incentives bill. In response to teacher shortages, especially in rural areas, and declining enrollment in Teacher certification programs, proposes creating additional Regional Education Centers to reduce costs of pursuing education certification.

Concern expressed by CFAC that continued tuition increases to offset reduced State funding, especially if perceived as partially due to increased administrator salaries, will erode public support for higher ed. but without full or accurate understanding of the issues underlying education funding and costs.

12:30-1:15 Lunch and Campus Updates

1:15-1:40 GE Council Update (Jeff and Wayne)

- Jeff recently served on search committee for DHE Student Success administrator;
- Suggestions for GE Council Agenda requested:

Some interest is statewide faculty discussions about writing expectations, calibrating coursework across institutions.

General interest expressed in returning the Fac2Fac meetings to focusing on teaching and learning rather than policy development, and to general invitations to faculty.

1:00-1:15 Fall Survey Results

- Summary distributed of surveys conducted of CFAC representatives in the fall. Shared concerns:

Firearms on campus

Lack of shared understanding of faculty salaries, how faculty compensation is determined, how compensation compares to CUPA models.

Corporate model for Higher Ed. administrators. Concern that this model doesn't reflect the traditional commitment within higher ed. to transparent processes of hiring and compensation.

Decline in proportion of full time to temporary faculty, and of compensation for non-full time faculty.

Concurrent enrollment, and in particular questionable practices of ensuring instructor qualifications and adequate monitoring by Instructors of Record.

We are encouraged to review the summary and make requests to CFAC President about particular issues we want to follow up on as CFAC agenda items.

1:15-2:00 Open Discussion

- Anyone interested in contributing to a CFAC statement regarding concerns about HLC policies regarding faculty qualifications are invited to send Phil Crossley an e-mail. A document will be prepared together and given to Ian to present in discussions with HLC officials at the HLC meeting in April.
- Ballot measure to convert Hospital Provider Fee to an Enterprise. CCHE Commissioners have issued resolution of support. Most institutions' administrations and/or governing boards are also making statements of support.

Agreed that CFAC supports the CCHE resolution of support for the conversion to Enterprise status based on our concern regarding impacts on students of increasing tuition fees. Members also expressed interest in promoting a long term solution to higher ed. funding and not simply this temporary measure.

- Strong statement of support by the CFAC members for the current culture of consultation and collaboration between CCHE, DHE and faculty, and desire to maintain this relationship with the new CCHE Executive Director.

2:00-2:15 Elections

- Decided to postpone elections until beginning of the fall meeting.

Wayne will circulate CFAC by-laws and confirm which positions need to be elected.

Fall Meeting: Tentatively set for Oct. 21 at Red Rocks CC

2:15 Adjournment