

**CFAC Fall 2012 Meeting,
Sept. 21, Heller Center, UCCS**

Present: Mike Mincic (CSU-Pueblo), Jerry Peterson (CU), Candace Garrod (Red Rocks CC), Elsa Eccles (Pueblo CC), Wayne Artis (Pikes Peak), Fred Boettcher (Otero Junior College), Phil Crossley (Western State), Andrea Hutchins (UCCS), Melinda Picket-May (CU-System Faculty Council Chair), Brian Reeves (Trinidad State JC), Tim Armstrong (Adams State), Paul Off (Mines), Jeff London (MSU), Geoff Hunt (CC Aurora), Jonathan Lichtenwalner (Northeastern JC).

Minutes

10:00 Welcome, Introductions

Brief discussion of role/nature of CFAC for new members, role of the CFAC chair, etc.;

Also noted that CFAC is included in the DHE website, where minutes and other matters will be archived: <http://higher.colorado.gov/Academics/Groups/>. (Note: this is where the CFAC minutes are archived, but it is a difficult site to find if you simply begin at the DHE homepage, hoping to come across CFAC.....)

1. Approval of Minutes (April 13, 2012 meeting)

Moved and seconded to approve minutes as submitted, and will be submitted to Ian MacGillivray (DHE) to put on the DHE website.

2. Chair's Report

A. Chair reviews how the CCHE meetings function and Chair's role in those meetings; non-voting advisor to the Commissioners, and is often asked for input on upcoming policies. Agenda usually circulated 1 week prior to Commission meetings, so Chair encourages us to communicate perspectives from our campuses on issues that are of interest/concern via e-mail before meetings in order to enable him to contribute more timely and significant input.

-General discussion about the nature of the CCHE, the body given the Statutory responsibility to authorize and oversee Higher Education, and the upcoming visits of Commissioners to campuses with regard to the Higher Education master Plan and the institutional Performance Contracts. Some representatives were already aware of these visits; others had not been informed previously.

B. Institutional Performance Contracts

-actually discussed at the end of the meeting

- Performance Contracts to be focused on, and organized in correlation with the Higher Ed. Master Plan's 4 major goals;

- intended performance outcomes to be negotiated btw. institutions and DHE staff;

- general, considerable concern expressed in the meeting about unintended repercussions of outcomes requiring "annual increases" (could lead to grade inflation, penalties for maintaining high academic standards, impossibility of increasing effectiveness beyond perfection etc), that we need to make sure our chief academic officers understand our concerns regarding the wording of these performance outcomes, and encourage them to insist on meaningful, well-thought out, measures of our performance and effectiveness.

- also noted that unclear whether the Performance Contracts likely to have any effect on institutional funding while Colorado is so underfunding higher education.

3. GE Council Update

A. Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements

- DHE has prepared Status Matrix reporting progress on all Transfer Articulation Agreements (to ensure students that progress toward degree plans from one institution will be accepted by other CO institutions) mandated by prior legislation (the Matrix provided to us by Ian MacGillivray); most have been completed, the remaining agreements expected to be completed by Spring 2013.
- In spite of some trepidation at the beginning, once faculty have actually talked with each other most concerns have been alleviated and the articulation agreements have been relatively easy to work out, or to agree that an articulation agreement is not appropriate.
- There are a few areas in which agreement has been relatively easy and others where faculty from different institutions are still not in agreement (most of these are in Natural Sciences).
- Articulation agreements also now being considered for programs that are named differently, but have substantially similar content.
- Noted that the articulation agreements guarantee credit transfer, they do not guarantee admission to other institutions.

B. Compliance (with Statutory Mandates regarding gtPathways) Checklists

- DHE has developed the checklists, and sent them to the Chief Academic Officers at each institution.
- Point #4, regarding compliance with creation of General Education requirements that include CCHE specified subject areas has generated some dispute and controversy regarding whether each institution is required to conform its General Education program to the structure of the gtPathways provisions or just include the categories of learning laid out in the gtPathways; and whether the entire GE program has to consist only of gtPathways approved courses.
- DHE is currently arguing that the gtPathways structure (required # of credits in specific areas: (communication (6 cr), mathematics (3 cr), arts and humanities (3 cr), history (3 cr), social and behavioral sciences (3 cr), and natural and physical sciences (7 cr)) must be adhered to within each institution's General Education program. Further consideration is ongoing at DHE.

- The Commission (CCHE) has authorization to grant waivers to specific programs.

C. Bylaw Revisions

- revised CFAC by-laws submitted for discussion.
- decided that we take time to review/comment on them for 2 weeks after distribution by e-mail, and Chair will call for a vote by e-mail to take place within 1 week. Decided that a simple majority of those voting will constitute approval.

D. Change of Meeting Time?

- consideration of possibility of meeting earlier in the spring, but need to be mindful of weather factors;
- general consensus that starting earlier in the morning often better for many, but left up to Chair's discretion based on location and traffic patterns, and that early April the wisest choice given weather factors;
- Spring meeting: Fri. April 12, 9 am, at Red Rocks CC (tentative); Metro as back up.

Meeting Adjourned, ~ 1:45 pm.