



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
October 22, 2021**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Vanecia Kerr called the business meeting to order at 1:00pm.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Kerr, Vice Chair Hughes, Commissioners Abramson, Harber, Kostenbauer, Meyer, Scott, Trujillo, Tucker, Wilson.

Advisors attending: Rep. Cathy Kipp, Sen. Kevin Priola, Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, Brad Baca, Mark Cavanaugh, Colleen O'Neil, Melinda Piket-May, Colleen O'Neil, Landon Pirius

B. Minutes

Commissioner Abramson moved to approve the September 2, 2021, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Harber, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Report – Chair Kerr reported that she attended the Community College of Aurora's reception for the new president, Dr. Mordecai Brownlee. She had the opportunity to meet Dr. Brownlee and see several other members of the community. She also thanked department staff for all the work that they do on an ongoing basis and to all the commissioners for their continued involvement in our higher ed institutions and the important work that's happening throughout the state.

Vice Chair Report – See HB21-1330 Task Force Report.

Commissioner Reports – Commissioner Meyer reported that the investiture of John Marshall as the new president of Colorado Mesa is taking place today.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported that the committee met on October 15th and discussed student budget parameters and funding formula recommendations. The committee has ongoing discussions on the financial aid allocation methodology review and staff shared several scenarios tied to graduate grant and work



studies as they related to expanding the classification of instructional programs or CIP codes to a wider group aligned to the talent pipeline report. Early indications are that IHE's are welcoming this potential change.

Student Success & Workforce Alignment Committee – Commissioner Abramson reported that the committee met on October 18th. Much of the committee's work will be addressed in the agenda today. Department staff organized a special conversation around NO 2 which is around getting credit for certain experience and transferable credit. There is a pilot program that provides financial aid to students participating in concurrent enrollment courses.

Advisor Reports- Mr. Baca thanked Dr. Paccione and Commissioner Harber for coming to Gunnison a few weeks ago for the grand opening of Western Colorado's Paul M. Rady School of Computer Science and Engineering and the kickoff of our partnership program with the University of Colorado.

Dr. Piket-May thanked the commission for involving a faculty voice in the HB21-1330 work. She also announced that on November 9th the American Council on Education has a webinar on building bridges between colleges and employers and specifically building apprenticeships and college credits for that work.

Mr. Cavanaugh thanked the commission for including the private IHEs in financial aid discussions. This source of money is outrageously important to these institutions, both public and private and the recent CFO meeting included a robust discussion on this topic.

Executive Director Report – Dr. Paccione acknowledged the passing of Dr. Russ Meyer. He was a longtime administrator at CSU-Pueblo, and he served as interim chief student success and academic affairs for the Department. The designations of Hunger Free and Healthy Minds Campus are going to be expanded so that the private institutions could also be included in a designation from the Department if they meet the criteria. Dr. Paccione also reported on the great partnership between Western Colorado and CU as noted by Mr. Baca. It's a great partnership because it gives great opportunity for those local residents who start at Western.

With the partnership, students complete their first two years at Western. Then they complete their last two years technically at CU on Western's campus in their respective computer science and engineering program CU has a similar kind of collaboration with Colorado Mesa. The governor wants to see every community college have a partnership with a four-year institution. The community colleges have the Bridge to Bachelor's program and now they've also created these pathways that have direct transition inspired by Aims2UNC which is a collaboration between those two schools where students start at Aims. Dr. Paccione is proposing that we should be able to co-brand these diplomas.

The Department just concluded the free application days. The campaign went three days this year and has progressively increased applications of approximately 22,000 the first year, 44,000 the next, and 57,000 last year.

The Department received a Lumina Foundation grant of \$125,000 to help us moving forward with trying to close Colorado's equity gaps.



Dr. Paccione has been appointed to serve on the US Department of Ed’s subcommittee on prison education. The subcommittee is focused on how to best provide our incarcerated individuals with educational opportunities to prepare them for post-incarcerated lives.

HB21-1330 Task Force Report- Commissioner Abramson reported that the Task Force has formed three working groups. One is focused on student success, the second is focused on workforce alignment, and the third will address the question of system alignment. The goal is that the Task Force will have a report ready to go as legislators are pulling early bill titles. Before end of the year, we will be able to share not only the ideas but the report itself. Commissioner Hughes thanked everyone on the call who has participated in these meetings and contributed to the work.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

II. Consent Items

- A. Degree Authorization - Recommendation of Approval for the Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part J – *Heather DeLange*
- B. Degree Authorization – Recommendation of Approval for the Renewal of Authorization for Religious Training Institutions – *Heather DeLange*
- C. Approval of 2022-23 Student Budget Parameters – *Emma Fedorchuk*
- D. Recommend Approval of Two-Year Cash List for Colorado Mesa University – *Ashlee Pate*
- E. Recommend Approval of Program Plans and Waivers for FY 2022-2023 Requested Capital Projects – *Ashlee Pate*
- F. Recommend Approval of Proposed CCHE Innovation Policy Pilot Program by Colorado Community College System Institutions and Colorado Mountain College to Award Financial Aid to Concurrent Enrollment Students – *Lauren Gilliland and Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Commissioner Harber moved to approve Consent Items A through F. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abramson and passed by unanimous consent.

III. Action Items

- A. Recommend Approval of Revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part V: Creation of Academic and Vocational Programs at Public Institutions of Higher Education to Comply with HB21-1330 – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Dr. Rasmussen recommended that the Commission approve proposed revisions to Policy I, Part V, to comply with House Bill 21-1330. The revisions concern approval processes for community colleges that wish to offer Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs, as well as approval processes for other bachelor’s degree programs at Colorado Mountain



College. Commissioner Harber moved that the proposed revisions be approved through unanimous consent. Commissioner Abramson seconded and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

B. CCHE Recommendation on the Funding Allocation Formula – *Emma Fedorchuk*

Ms. Fedorchuk gave a brief overview of the timeline of the funding formula recommendation for the Governor’s budget request and noted she would be available for technical questions prior to a robust Commission-driven discussion on a recommendation for funding in the 2022-23 Fiscal Year. Commissioners discussed a statement on the budget context and Commission recommendations drafted and circulated by members of the Finance, Performance, and Accountability Committee. The statement addressed the national postsecondary landscape and the context for higher education funding in Colorado, and issued a call to action to shift the conversation from one of funding scarcity to how to best facilitate progress on statewide goals. The Commission’s recommendations included:

- Creating an aligned postsecondary and workforce vision for Colorado;
- Fostering momentum of the 1330 process;
- Leveraging one-time federal funds;
- Rethinking financial aid with a lens towards equity;
- Covering inflationary costs;
- Making a down payment on transformation through step 3 of the model; and,
- Moving towards heightened accountability and accessible and transparent data.

Commissioner Hughes moved that the Commission accept the document as presented with one minor language change. Commissioner Abramson seconded the motion. The motion passed 9-1, with Commissioner Harber voting against per his view that the recommendation should have included an explicit funding recommendation, such as the \$125.6 million requested by the governing boards.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Implementation of HB20-1002 (A Plan to Award Transferrable College Credit for Work-Related Experience) and Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part X: Prior Learning Assessment – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Dr. Rasmussen presented proposed revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part X, and a proposed plan for awarding transferrable college credit for work-related experience, to comply with the directive of House Bill 20-1002. The bill requires that the commission approve a plan—in collaboration with the General Education Council—by January 1, 2022. The details of the implementation plan had been presented to the CCHE Standing Committee on Student Success & Workforce Alignment and have been vetted with all stakeholders named in the bill. The presentation included tensions and limitations of the



bill given the scope of commission authority and institutional prerogative, and some of the opportunities to align the work with the themes emerging from the HB21-1330 task force. Dr. Rasmussen said the General Education Council will meet on November 8 to finalize the plan, which will be brought to the commission for action in December.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04pm.

