



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
December 3, 2020**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Vanecia Kerr called the business meeting to order at 1:01p.m.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Vanecia Kerr, Commissioners Berrick Abramson, Luis Colon, Sarah Hughes, Teresa Kostenbauer, Tom McGimpsey, Steven Meyer, Charley Olena, Brittany Stich, Steven Trujillo, Eric Tucker.

Advisors attending: Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Brad Baca, David Olguin, Landon Pirius, Leah Porter, Misti Ruthven

B. Minutes

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the minutes for the October 22, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the motion passed unanimously.

C. Election of Vice Chair

Commissioner Hughes was nominated and elected to serve as Vice Chair.

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

Chair Vanecia Kerr Report – Chair Kerr thanked Commissioner McGimpsey for his service as chair and congratulated him on his new role in his professional organization. She also recognized and thanked Commissioner Hughes for her work plan presentation at the work session and for her ongoing commitment to guiding the commission in this work.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported that the committee met in November. The governor’s budget was discussed with a focus



on drafting criteria for universities that were looking to increase their tuition beyond the 3 percent caps. General guidelines were drafted and are ready for commission discussion as needed. The Hanover study was also discussed. The report is well structured, with data and findings now being tended to by the Department. One of the primary report findings is that the Colorado IEGs are funded at a lower level than peer institutions in other states. From a commission standpoint, continued advocacy for their improved funding (as it become available) is important. The committee would like to develop a working group to use the Hanover research to help inform the development of step 1 and step 3 of the algorithm being used to help allocate funding to IHEs. A meeting of stakeholders to discuss capital scoring criteria will take place on December 11th and all commissioners are invited to attend.

Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee – Commissioner Stich reminded commissioners that the committee meets two weeks before CCHE meetings and all are welcome to attend. The committee discussed trying to have conversation to move items to the commission consent agenda as part of a new appeals process which all will see later in today’s agenda. The committee discussed the test optional admissions policy and its merits, potential implications. The committee spent time reviewing the new website and implementation plan for the CCHE innovation policy that passed last month. The website is live and all are eager to see applications from our institutions. The committee has a smaller working group to focus on this. The committee also will establish a smaller working group to discuss the impacts of Covid on enrollment, retention, or instruction. The group also will discuss the implications of these impacts on the K-12 sector and how that might impact higher education.

Executive Director Report – Deputy Director, Inta Morris presented Dr. Paccione’s report in her absence. In November the COSI board awarded over \$3.3 million in funds to complete the first application period for 2021 matching student scholarship grant. With all the applications approved, there was a total of approximately \$6.6 million awarded to students across the state all leveraged to a 1:1 match. The Department’s educator preparation program convened a statewide virtual faculty conference focused on community partnerships and culturally responsive education. As a result of that convening, faculty from nine colleges and universities have agreed to be part of a community of practice to learn how to incorporate “FFSCP” (Faith, Family, School and Community Partnerships in educator preparation). October 13th was Colorado free application day and final numbers are being compiled. We had 55,000 Coloradoans take advantage to apply on that day. That is an increase of 10,400 over the previous year. Study Colorado hosted its first virtual international student fair and all of the Colorado institutions participated – with over 200 students from 27 countries involved. The International Open Education Conference was held virtually in November and Colorado is regarded as a leading state in the nation in this effort. The conference hosted more than 1,500 participants worldwide and 42 Colorado educators presented. The My Colorado Journey platform received a small grant that will



allow us to incorporate a check mark feature that will allow for outside funding and thus grow the platform. Campus leaders met with Kacie Wolfe, the Governor's COVID policy person to review state trends. At this time, if trends continue, Colorado will exceed hospital capacity. That trend line is being countered by the restrictions that have been put in place. All of the institutions are scheduled to begin spring semester in mid-January and bring students back from across the country. The state is not recommending that the institutions do any one specific thing because every situation is different, but all are encouraged to look at the tradeoffs between bringing the students back in mid-January or pushing back the in-person start by two to three to four weeks.

E. Public Comment –No public comment

II. Consent Items

A. Degree Authorization Act – ECPI University – Recommendation of Approval for Renewal of Authorization as a Place of Business – *Heather DeLange*

B. Approval of Supplemental for Adjusted NWC Certificate of Participation Payment Schedule - *Lauren Gilliland*

C. Degree Authorization Act – Capella University – Recommendation of Approval for Authorization as a Place of Business (with no instruction) – *Heather DeLange*

D. Recommend Approval of Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Programs at Metropolitan State University of Denver – *Dr. Brittany Lane*

E. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy VI F State-Funded Student Financial Aid to include CASFA and HB 19-1196 processes- *Emily Orr*

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve Consent Items A - E. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abramson and passed unanimously.

III. Action Items

A. Proposed Changes to CCHE Policy I, L: Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways Policy – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Commissioner McGimpsey moved and Commissioner Meyer seconded to accept staff recommendations to revise the policy. Commissioner Stich offered a friendly amendment to revise Section 3.11 of the policy to read “For the purposes of this policy, “native student” means a student at a Colorado public four-year institution who did not transfer from a Colorado community or local-district college under a statewide transfer agreement.” Commissioners McGimpsey and Meyer accepted the friendly amendment, and the motion passed unanimously.



IV. Discussion Items

A. Degree Authorization Act – Proposed Additions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part J, Regarding State Authorization Reciprocity – *Heather DeLange*

Heather DeLange, Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education, provided an overview of the proposed language to the current policy. This included a definition of the approved interstate reciprocity program in which Colorado is a member as well as a process by which institutions may appeal a denial in reciprocity participation. The process includes a three-person committee consisting of the Executive Director, the Chair of the Standing Committee for Academic and Student Affairs, and the Academic Council advisory committee member. This committee will review the decision made by the state portal entity and will provide a final decision regarding institutional participation.

Commissioner Abramson moved that this item be placed for action on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stich and passed unanimously. Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve this item, seconded by Commissioner Colon and passed unanimously.

B. Proposed Resolution to Extend Implementation Deadline for HB19-1206 Due to Exceptional Circumstances – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Dr. Rasmussen described the “exceptional circumstances” brought by the CoVID pandemic that merited an extension of the deadline for institutions to comply with provisions of HB19-1206 regarding placement of students into developmental education courses. The resolution would pre-approve a one-year extension to any institution that requested it (from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023), with authority to grant the extension delegated to the CDHE executive director or her designee. Institutions could still request an extension of up to two years, per statute.

Commissioner McGimpsey moved that the item be placed for action on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tucker and passed unanimously. Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve this item. Commissioner Stich seconded the motion which passed unanimously

C. Open Education Resources Notification Implementation Guidelines-*Spencer Ellis*

Staff briefed the Commission on the provision from HB18-1331, which requires institutions to notify students prior to course registrations of the courses which use OER and other low-cost materials (starting fall 2021). Staff shared the guidelines memo with the Commission (created in conjunction with the OER Council), which provides institutions with guidance during implementation. Staff asked CCHE to discuss and officially endorse the guidance memo.



Commissioner McGimpey moved that this item be placed for action on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abramson and passed unanimously. Commissioner McGimpey moved to approve this item. Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

V. Commission Initiatives

A. Equity Champions Coalition Equity Report – *Shelley Banker*

Shelley Banker, Senior Advisor to the Office of Educational Equity, provided an overview of the upcoming Equity Champions Coalition (ECC) Equity Report. She presented with David Olguin, Student Advisor to Commission and Co-Chair and Student Liaison to CDHE Equity Champions Coalition, and Dr. Ryan Ross, Associate Vice Chancellor - Student Affairs Equity and Inclusion for Colorado Community College System and Co-Chair to CDHE Equity Champions Coalition. Staff and co-chairs provided an overview of the ECC, the report, and the timeline of the report's release. This will occur in mid-December. CCHE also received information on the implementation and potential CCHE follow up action.

B. 2021 Legislative Session - Budget & Legislative Agenda – *Jason Schrock and Chloe Figg*

Jason Schrock, Chief Financial Officer, provided an overview of the Department's budget items in the Governor's budget request that was submitted to the legislature on November 2. He discussed the state funding request for public higher education institutions and the tuition spending authority request -- the two main budget requests for the Department every year. The state funding request restores funding to the FY 2019-20 level, allocating all of the funding through step 2 of the funding formula, while the tuition request caps resident tuition increases at 3 percent; institutions have the ability to discuss exceeding this cap with the CCHE. Mr. Schrock also briefly discussed other Department budget highlights of the Governor's request.

The meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.

