



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
March 5, 2021**

BUSINESS MEETING

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

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Kerr, Vice Chair Hughes, Commissioners Colon, Kostenbauer, McGimpsey, Meyer, Olena, Stich, Trujillo, Tucker.

Advisors attending: Rep. Van Beber, Sen. Zenzinger, Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Brad Baca, David Olguin, Dr. Landon Pirius, Leah Porter, Misti Ruthven

B. Minutes

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the February 5, 2021 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Report – Chair Kerr reported that university presidents have expressed an interest in connecting with the commission in the next few months. They would also like to meet in the summer. There will be further conversations with them about organizing these meetings.

Vice Chair Report – Vice Chair Hughes noted that the meeting with university presidents is also called for in the work plan as part of an ongoing conversation to align revision of the master plan with metrics and issues that the commission should be focused on. The Colorado Trustee Network (CTN) partnered with the Department in hosting the January training and the first learning session. CTN launched their organization on March 3rd, are hosting their first event on the



Colorado funding formula through the lens of equity on March 16th. Registration is on the sign-up page for the Colorado Trustee Network.org. There is a transportation package that's under consideration in the legislature. This package will include new revenue generated through fees on transportation. This could benefit higher ed in the long term via redirected additional funding.

Commissioner Reports –

Commissioner Kostenbauer met with Adams State last month. The test optional program was discussed. Also, Adams State is concerned about the name change of Trinidad Junior College to Trinidad State College. The concern is focused on the potential for confusion between the two institutions and if Trinidad is considering a change of mission and scope. Commissioner Kostenbauer also met with the BOLD program which is the diversity program within CU Boulder's engineering college. BOLD reports a significantly high retention rate for their underrepresented minorities – well above the national average.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Chair Tucker reported that the committee discussed approval of the capital IT scoring criteria with a slight modification to align with the capital budget revision offered by the working group. There was an initial discussion on the potential reallocation of state aid at different levels. It is currently progressive from freshman year through the senior year and the committee had some initial discussions on possible scenarios if it was different. Steps 1 and 3 of the funding formula were also discussed and will be discussed later today as an agenda item.

Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee – Chair Stich reported that the committee discussed the work-based learning timeline and the convening that was held last week per HB20-1002. This legislation centers around prior learning assessment and work-based learning. The committee also discussed the OER application process. This is also a reminder about the Equity Day of Dialogue scheduled for March 15th from 12:30 to 3:30. There was discussion about what additional things the commission can do to advance our equity goals for the state.

Advisor Reports-

Advisor Cavanaugh reported that there is a ground swell of effort to move to doubling Pell to approximately \$13,000 for the maximum award. ACE, the American Council on Education has a letter that institutions and groups like CCHE can sign in support of this initiative.

Advisor Porter reported that she had attended a meeting with the PTA. She presented on the community college perspective on COVID.

Advisor Artis invited commissioners to join a meeting of the Faculty Advisory Council. Commissioner Hughes will join the meeting on April 9th.

Advisor Baca reported that the overall level of state support Colorado provides to higher education is one of the lowest in the nation. The endowments that the three private institutions on the Work Session panel have is probably well over \$1



billion which puts them at a competitive advantage. Because they are independent, their tuition structures are structured so that they are not relying on state support to fund their operations. These are the types of issues that the CFO group will raise as they explore that kind of expansion of access to funds. Also, the unintended impact of the test optional legislation that is happening at the more prestigious, well-branded institutions is that they are seeing a massive increase in applications to the detriment of the smaller, less recognizable institutions.

Executive Director Report – Dr. Ben Boggs reported for Dr. Angie Paccione due to connectivity issues. On Wednesday, February 24th the Department released its Hunger Free and Healthy Minds campus checklist. Through this initiative we commit as a state to eliminate food insecurity and prioritize mental health needs of our students pursuing the post-secondary education. On Monday, March 15th from 12:30 to 3:30 the Department will convene the first equity day of dialogue with partners across Colorado to highlight the recently published report on equity, educational equity.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

II. Consent Items

- A. Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation for Authorization of BEE World as a Religious Training Institution/Seminary – *Heather DeLange*

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve Consent Item A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tucker and passed unanimously.

III. Action Items

- A. Recommended Grants for 2020-21 OER Grant Program – *Spencer Ellis*
Guest Presenters and OER Council Chairs: Ms. Emily Bongiovanni, Colorado School of Mines & Mr. Dustin Fife, Colorado Western University
Spencer Ellis, Director of Educational Innovation, introduced OER grantee recommendations for the final year of grant funds. Staff were joined by the chairs of the OER Council, who reported on the institutional and state impact of the OER program. CCHE unanimously moved to approve the recommended grantees. CCHE also discussed briefly the future of the OER work. Staff closed by suggesting continued support for OER as part of a larger innovation agenda in the refreshed strategic plan in the future.
- B. Recommend Approval of Revised CCHE Capital IT Scoring Criteria – *Lauren Gilliland*
Ms. Lauren Gilliland, Lead Finance Analyst, presented the proposed revised CCHE Capital IT Scoring Criteria. Ms. Gilliland noted that a full review of the IT criteria was not conducted, as they have only been in place for two years. Revisions were only made to criteria shared with the newly revised CCHE Capital Construction/Renewal Criteria for consistency. Ms. Gilliland stated that the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee approved of the new CCHE Capital IT criteria at



their February meeting. Advisor Brad Baca expressed his approval of the revision. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the new criteria.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation for Provisional Authorization of the University of Maryland, Global Campus – *Heather DeLange*

Ms. Heather DeLange, Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education, reported on the outcome of the evaluation for the University of Maryland Global Campus. Ms. DeLange provided the Commission with the background and reasoning for the University's application to operate in Colorado on the Fort Carson Army Base.

Ms. DeLange explained the remaining requirement for the University is to secure a surety bond. Upon procurement of the bond, Ms. DeLange will return to the Commission recommending Full Authorization.

Ms. DeLange noted that staff would support the move from a Discussion Item to an Action item if the Commission so desired. The motion was made, seconded and the item passed unanimously.

B. CCHE Use of Steps 1 and 3 of Funding Formula – *Jason Schrock*

Mr. Jason Schrock, Chief Financial Officer, discussed the structure of the new funding formula that allocates state funding to governing boards established by HB 20-1366. He discussed the three components, or "steps," of the formula. State statute gives the commission authority to make funding recommendations using the formula, including through steps 1 and 3.

Mr. Schrock discussed the document distributed to the commission outlining the process the CCHE would use to make funding recommendations. Essentially, the commission would annually establish a policy goal or priority in collaboration with the department and governing boards. The Commission would then recommend funding be allocated in step 1 and/or 3 to governing boards to meet the goal. This could include allocating to select governing boards based on an application process. Advisor Brad Baca discussed the process for the use of steps 1 and 3, including feedback from other governing boards on the use of the steps.

Mr. Schrock discussed the next steps for the process, including asking governing boards to recommend policy goals for step 1 or 3 for the commission to consider. The commission will utilize its committees to help vet recommendations for policy goals. Mr. Tucker discussed his interest in seeing reporting mechanisms to ensure there is accountability tied to the funding allocated through steps 1 and 3.



C. Impacts of the Pandemic -*Dr. Kim Poast, Mr. Todd Saliman, Dr. Bill Niemi, Dr. Bill Henry, Dr. Kurt Haas, Dr. Rick Miranda, Dr. Kent Buchanan*

Representatives of the state's 4-year institutions discussed the impact of the pandemic on enrollment, retention, and student success, and how these institutions are navigating and changing in this new environment.

V. Commission Initiatives

A. Legislative Update – *Chloe Figg*

Chloe Figg, Legislative Liaison for the Department and Alexia Chaparro, Legislative Intern and CLLARO fellow, presented an update to the Commission which covered newly introduced legislation impacting higher education policy.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.

