



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
May 7, 2021**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Vanecia Kerr called the business meeting to order at 1:03pm.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Kerr, Commissioners Kostenbauer, McGimpsey, Meyer, Stich, Trujillo, Tucker.

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

B. Minutes

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve the April 2, 2021 meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Trujillo, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Report – Chair Kerr reported that there have been some conversations with a few IHE presidents who would like to be more engaged with the commission. They are interested in further conversations clarifying the roles of Commission, the Department, and the IHEs and how all can work better together. This will be arranged for an upcoming meeting or at a separate meeting later in the month.

Vice Chair Report – Vice Chair Hughes was excused from this meeting.

Commissioner Reports – Commissioner Trujillo reported that Dr. Paccione attended the Pueblo Latino Chamber of Commerce luncheon and was the keynote speaker. Her talk was very energizing and greatly appreciated by all attending. She also met with area principals within Pueblo County for a roundtable discussion about having conversations with students about degree attainment, credentialing, and certificates. Following that meeting, she met with community leaders to talk about the work of the Department and credential attainment for the community.



Commissioner Kostenbauer shared an article about the term “minority” and the idea that the term is a misnomer and should no longer be used.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported that the committee met on April 30th. They received a budget update from Jason Schrock as well as a state financial aid allocations update. The financial aid allocation update will be discussed as an action item in today’s meeting. He reported that Chair Kerr and Vice Chair Hughes and the commission will receive a draft memo for the Governor’s office about how the financial aid footnote is being addressed. Commissioner Tucker then called on Lauren Gilliland to update the commission on Adams State’s Plachy Hall capital funding item discussed and approved at the commission’s April meeting.

Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee – Commissioner Stich reported that the committee was updated on the test optional bill. Upcoming authorizations which are on today’s agenda were also discussed. The committee heard from consultants regarding the feasibility landscape analysis and what is happening nationally per an independent advocacy initiative for the higher education talent ecosystem.

Advisor Reports- Advisor Artis reported that Vice Chair Hughes participated in the Colorado Faculty Advisory Council meeting in April. The Council intends to invite other commissioners to attend in the future. Mr. Artis reported that he will be stepping down as a commission advisor, having completed 8 years in the role. His successor is Dr. Melinda Pickett-May from the College of Engineering at CU Boulder.

Advisor Cavanaugh noted that federal hearings that will begin on the comprehensive reform of Title IX as it relates to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Advisor Porter reported that she attended the Colorado PTA Convention. The experience was meaningful and positive.

Advisor Olguin reported that his term is ending and he will be stepping down as Student Advisor. His successor is Daniel Casillas from CU Denver. David will continue to co-chair the Equity Champions Coalition, and may present to the commission in the future.

Executive Director Report – Dr. Paccione reported that the statewide attainment rate has reached 61%. The goal is 66% by 2025, so progress is being made. The methodology for calculating rate was changed, which resulted in a wider equity gap. There is a renewed sense of urgency around the work being done in this area. Dr. Paccione acknowledged Inta Morris, who is stepping down as Deputy Director of the department after 13 years of service. She thanked Inta for her many contributions to the students of Colorado and the higher education landscape.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

II. Consent Items

- A. Recommend Approval of the Mentor Teacher endorsement to be offered by Adams State University – *Dr. Brittany Lane*
- B. Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation of Authorization as a Place of Business for Strayer University – *Heather DeLange*



- C. Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation of the Renewal of Authorization as a Place of Business for the University of Arizona Global Campus– *Heather DeLange*
- D. Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation of Authorization for Harvest University as a Religious Training Institution – *Heather DeLange*

Commissioner Kostenbauer moved to approve Consent Items A through D. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tucker and passed unanimously.

III. Action Items

- A. Fiscal Year 2021-22 Financial Aid Allocations – *Emma Fedorchuk and Lauren Gilliland*

Mr. Jason Schrock, CDHE, began the discussions on state financial aid allocations by noting a footnote in the legislature’s Long Bill (i.e., the state budget bill) indicating that it intended for the Commission to reduce the priority of state financial aid allocated to for-profit institutions. He indicated that the footnote did not have the force of law. Currently, only five for-profit institutions receive state financial aid for their students, and they receive a low amount compared to other schools in aid per student on average. FAA did not make a recommendation to the Commission on proprietary schools as the committee wished to discuss the matter further at its May meeting.

Ms. Emma Fedorchuk and Ms. Lauren Gilliland, CDHE, summarized the actions the Commission could take without deciding on financial aid for proprietary institutions, which were to approve actual allocations for the Graduate Grant and Career & Technical Education Grant and overall approaches to Colorado Student Grant & Work Study since those two programs include allocations to for-profit institutions. Ms. Fedorchuk gave a brief overview of a Colorado Student Grant scenario allocating an overall 10.7% increase, noting that a scenario with +5 / +20 guardrails had been recommended by the financial aid director group and FAA. She also presented on the Career and Technical Education Grant program, which remained flat overall but had changes to the allocation methodology. Ms. Gilliland presented allocations to the Graduate Grant program, which increased by 10.7% in line with undergraduate need-based aid, as well as an overview of the general approach to Colorado Work-Study allocations.

Commissioners approved allocations to the Graduate Grant and CTE programs. Commissioners also approved the overall approaches to both the Colorado Student Grant and the Colorado Work Study program, as recommended by FAA, while deferring a decision on final allocations until the Commission’s June meeting, after FAA was able to make a recommendation on funding for proprietary institutions.



IV. Discussion Items

A. Postsecondary Report – *Carl Einhaus*

Carl presented on the [Postsecondary Access and Success for Colorado’s High School Graduates](#) report which is issued annually by the Colorado Department of Higher Education pursuant to C.R.S. 23-1-113. The report explores the high school pathways into postsecondary enrollment, postsecondary enrollment trends and progress toward a credential of recent high school graduates. The report includes the high school graduating class of 2019 and their first year in college. Highlights of the report include that college-going rates are remaining stagnant (56.3%), equity gaps persist but there are increases in college-going rates for some student of color groups. The data does show signs of improvement for the students that enroll in higher education – GPA and course credits completed the first year continues to rise. Additionally, Developmental Education policy reform is working as evidenced by the significant decline in students’ needing developmental education.

- ##### B. Bridging the Talent Gap – *Beverly Jones, DHE, Katie Zaback, Consultant, CWDC* - Katie Zaback shared information Bridging the Talent Gap survey from the Graduate! Network. Bridging the Talent Gap is a statewide survey effort that will collect essential information from employers about their talent needs. Partners in the TalentFOUND network are leading efforts to administer the [Bridging the Talent Gap employer survey](#). The results of this industry-driven and data-informed survey will guide the development of lasting solutions for increasing attainment and addressing local skill shortages. The employer survey is open from May 1 through June 15. When the results become available in the fall, TalentFOUND network partners will use the data and insights gathered through the survey to develop effective, targeted talent development solutions and work with employers to implement practices and programs to strengthen their business. [Learn more about Bridging the Talent Gap](#)

V. Commission Initiatives

A. Legislative Update – *Chloe Figg and Alexia Chaparro*

Mrs. Figg and Ms. Chaparro provided a legislative update on bills impacting higher education and the Department’s legislative agenda from the first regular session of the 73rd General Assembly.

Meeting adjourned at 3:19pm.

