



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
June 3, 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, Colon, Kostenbauer, McGimpsey, Meyer, Olena, Stich, Tucker.

Advisors attending: Wayne Artis, Brad Baca, David Olguin, Leah Porter.

B. Minutes

Commissioner Abramson moved to approve the May 7, 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 she has appreciated completing the term that previous Chair McGimpsey was not able to fulfill during this last six months due to his work promotion and increased responsibilities. She was pleased to move into this role and serve our state and the commission in this manner. She added that until Colorado reaches a point where more Coloradans are completing credentials, the Commission still has a lot of work to do. Chair Kerr encouraged the commission to move toward actions that can be taken within our authority to become influencers and move the needle in a big way. She expressed appreciation for the Advisors and the critical role they play in the work of the commission.

Vice Chair Report – Vice Chair Hughes also expressed gratitude and appreciation for commissioners and advisors as well as the opportunity to serve as Vice Chair. She reported that several IHEs have new leadership including Western and CU. Her work on the transportation bill will impact higher education in a positive way over the long term.



Commissioner Reports – Commissioner Stich reported that she will share a referral to a book that addresses the question of what other states’ institutions are doing to better connect education to work force and other outcomes.

Commissioner Kostenbauer reported that she met with the dean of Leeds College of Business at CU to get an update on the school’s performance. Its applications have increased over last year and the percentage of female applicants has risen as well. They have a first-year experience team that works with new students and to provide a lot of wraparound services.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported that the committee met on May 28th. Highlights of the meeting include a discussion about the funding formula and improving language for Step 1 and Step 3 of the formula. The committee also discussed the final financial aid allocation. More information is needed, and the conversations will continue over the summer.

Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee – Commissioner Stich reported that the committee met on May 20th. Staff presented an overview on the funding formula. Staff also reported on proposed changes to admissions policy which is on the agenda for today’s meeting. The committee was briefed on HB20-1022 implementation. The first innovation policy proposal was also discussed.

Advisor Reports- No advisor reports.

Executive Director Report – Dr. Paccione reported that this year’s long bill includes an amendment that allows the department to hire a Chief Educational Equity Officer. The Governor and OSPB have both approved it. The position was posted last week. Dr. Paccione thanked outgoing Deputy Director Inta Morris for 14 years of service at the department. Several IHEs have applied for the Hunger Free / Healthy Minds Campus designation. Additional work is moving forward in this area regarding SNAP benefits access by students. Progress is being made on a bill that will work to increase the number of students applying for FAFSA and CASFA aid. Open Educational Resources has received funds again this year and will work to address displaced workers, students with some college, no degree and the pay for success model.

Public Comment – There was no public comment.

II. Consent Items

- A. Degree Authorization Act – Recommendation for the Authorization Renewal of Religious Training Institutions – *Heather DeLange*
- B. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part F - Admissions Standards Policy – *Carl Einhaus*
- C. Recommend Approval of Amended Two-Year Cash List for Colorado State University - Fort Collins – *Ashlee Pate*

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



III. Action Items

A. Final Financial Aid Allocation Approval - Colorado Student Grant and Work Study – *Emma Fedorchuk and Lauren Gilliland*

Ms. Emma Fedorchuk and Ms. Lauren Gilliland, CDHE, reviewed actions related to financial aid previously taken by Commission. The Commission had previously approved financial aid allocations for FY 2021-22 for the Colorado Graduate Grant and CTE Grant programs but deferred a final decision on the Colorado Student Grant and Work Study Program until the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee (FAA) could obtain additional information on performance and accountability measures at for-profit institutions receiving state financial aid funds. The recommendation of FAA at its May 28 meeting was to approve a scenario in which allocations for proprietary institutions were the same as the prior year. The Commission voted to approve the recommendation of FAA.

B. Approval of Appropriation Timeline Extension for Systems Biotechnology Building Academic Wing Project at University of Colorado at Boulder – *Lauren Gilliland*

Ms. Lauren Gilliland, CDHE, presented a supplemental request on the behalf of the University of Colorado - Boulder to extend their spending authority on the previously appropriated Systems Biotechnology Academic Wing project. Ms. Gilliland explained that the campus spent \$41 million of their \$43 million appropriation and were requesting a two-year extension for the remaining \$2 million for which the spending authority was set to expire on July 1st. Commissioners asked clarifying questions, then voted unanimously to approve the request and forward it to OSPB.

IV. Discussion Items

A. CCHE Policy Innovation Proposal - CCCS/CMC Pilot Program Awarding Financial Aid to Concurrent Enrollment Students – *Spencer Ellis and Lauren Gilliland*

Mr. Spencer Ellis and Ms. Lauren Gilliland presented the first CCHE policy innovation proposal submitted since the program was established earlier in 2020. The proposal was a jointly submitted by Colorado Mountain College and Colorado Community College System to allow awarding of need-based financial aid to high school students participating in the concurrent enrollment programs. Mr. Ellis reviewed the policy innovation process, indicating the next step would be exploring an MOU with the institutions. He then outlined the proposal noting its intent, two-year time frame, and reporting requirements. Ms. Gilliland discussed the financial details of the request including a recommended 3% cap by the institution of its undergraduate need-based aid allocation, noting no new money would be available. She also discussed the pros and cons of the request from the Department's perspective.



Commissioners discussed the proposal. Commissioner Tucker asked what supports concurrent enrollment students get from the community college or university they attend. Mr. Carl Einhaus, CDHE, stated that it depends on the MOU and whether the course is taught at the high school or the university. Mr. Matt Gianneschi, CMC, stated that current law requires high schools to pay for tuition for concurrent enrollment courses, and CMC waives all administrative and registration fees for these students. He notes that the intent of the proposal is to cover expenses for items such as books and materials. He added that students enrolling in concurrent enrollment courses receive the same student services as any other postsecondary student. Advisor Wayne Artis, Pikes Peak Community College, affirmed that this is also the case on his campus. Commissioner Stich commended the submitting institutions, and asked that there be a focus on measuring outcomes when any policy innovations are implemented through this program.

Commissioners directed the Department to move forward with exploring an MOU with CMC and CCCS to implement the policy innovation.

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

Mr. Jason Schrock, CDHE, discussed the goal recommended by the institutions for the Commission to consider in making a funding recommendation in step 1 and/or 3 of the funding formula for the FY 2022-23 budget request. The recommended goal was reviewed by the Student Success and Academic Affairs and Fiscal Affairs committees. The language recommended by the institutions with the goal discusses levels of priority of funding—after sustaining current funding levels and funding core minimum cost increases through step 2 of the formula, additional investments in steps 1 and/or 3 should continue to focus on closing equity gaps as outlined in the Master Plan. The Commission voted to approve the language and the recommended policy goal.

C. Degree Authorization Act – Update – *Heather DeLange*

Ms. Heather DeLange, CDHE, provided an update on four currently authorized or previously authorized institutions under the Degree Authorization Act. The update included information on a proposed location change for Colorado Technical University, a merger of American Sentinel University with Post University, thereby resulting in the closure of the Colorado based American Sentinel University in Colorado, the closure of the additional location for Calvary University in Fort Morgan, and the accreditation action of ACCSC regarding the Center for Excellence in Higher Education family of schools, which includes the formerly authorized CollegeAmerica campuses.

Ms. DeLange will continue to monitor the actions and provide guidance to any student who is affected by the changes.



D. EDX Transcript Solutions – *Carl Einhaus with Kristi Wold-McCormick, University Registrar, and Reid Kallman, Associate Registrar, University of Colorado Boulder*

Mr. Einhaus introduced Ms. Wold-McCormick and Mr. Kallman who referenced a PowerPoint presentation included in the meeting booklet titled: “Electronic Data Exchange_CCHE_Final.” Both will provide updates on the project to the Commission as they become available.

V. Commission Initiatives

A. Legislative Update – *Dr. Ben Boggs*

In Chloe Figg’s absence, Dr. Ben Boggs, Chief of Staff, provided a brief legislative update. He noted that June 3 was Day 111 of 120 of this legislative session. The House has waived its rules to allow for bills to move more quickly through the chamber, and the pace has indeed picked up considerably. He added that Ms. Figg will provide a more comprehensive update via email next week. Dr. Boggs then highlighted three bills of particular note for Colorado postsecondary education:

- [HB21-1067: College Admission Use of National Test Scores](#) was signed into law by Governor Polis on May 25th. Sponsored by Representatives Kipp and Exum, and Senators Story and Buckner, the law stipulates that the governing board of a state institution of higher education may, but is not required to, require a national assessment test score as an eligibility criterion for admission.
- [HB21-1173: Prohibiting Legacy Preferences in Higher Education Institutions](#) was signed into law by Governor Polis on May 25th. Sponsored by Representatives Mullica and Gray, and Senators Pettersen and Bridges, the law prohibits a governing board of a state-supported higher education institution from considering legacy preferences and familial relationships to alumni of the institution in the admission process. The bill allows a governing board to ask questions regarding familial relationships to alumni of the institution in order to collect data.
- [HB21-1330: Higher Education Student Success](#) has been introduced in the House and was heard in House committee yesterday (Wednesday, June 2nd). Sponsored by Representatives McCluskie and Ricks, and Senators Zenzinger and Kirkmeyer, the bill is the means by which state and federal stimulus funds for postsecondary education will be allocated.

In closing, Chair Kerr recognized and thanked those advisors and commissioners leaving the commission: Commissioner Colon, Commissioner McGimpsey, Advisor Wayne Artis, Advisor Leah Porter and Advisor David Olguin.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20pm.

