



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
June 4, 2020**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Tom McGimpsey called the business meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair McGimpsey, Vice Chair Kerr, Commissioners Abramson, Buescher, Colon, Gannett, Hughes, Stich, Trujillo, Tucker, Executive Director Paccione.

Advisors attending: Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Brad Baca, Rick Miranda, Christina Powell, Misti Ruthven

B. Minutes

Commissioner Buescher moved to approve the minutes for the May 1, 2020 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colon and passed unanimously.

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

Chair McGimpsey summarized the Work Session discussion. He commented that not all innovations mentioned make sense for Colorado, but there was a strong emphasis on democracy and jobs. He encouraged the commission to focus on the problem they are solving and the master plan outlines that well.

Vice Chair Kerr expressed appreciation to the panelists for their participation in the Work Session. She encouraged the commission to look at things more intensely and to think about innovation in different ways while layering that with the master plan call for improving outcomes and equities.



Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported that committee discussion will be reviewed in the action items on today’s agenda.

Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported for Commissioner Gannett. The committee discussed adjustments being made to COSI funding due to the pandemic. The focus has been on work replacement grants. Equity issues were also discussed.

Advisor Artis reported that there was a statewide faculty meeting regarding the COVID19 pandemic and the effects on higher ed. He thanked Dr. Kim Poast and Dr. Chris Rasmussen for convening that group.

Executive Director Report – Dr. Paccione recognized that many may be feeling crisis fatigue with the pandemic and social injustice issues at the forefront. The department will participate in a cleanup effort at the capitol following the protests. She encouraged hope and a call to action to do the right things and change the metrics and results from our institutions and communities. She reported that the No Lapse in Learning campaign closed strongly with over 650 laptops donated across the state. A preliminary draft of Return to Campus will be finalized by mid-June in coordination with the governor’s office, the CDPHE, and the AG’s office. There was a Townhall Meeting with Boulder County School district on May 26th with 99 participants. The department is hosting the National OER Summit. She recognized President Andy Feinstein at UNC on his election as Chair of the Big Sky Athletic Conferences President’s Council. The Greeley college system just announced its Bridge to Bachelors Degree program. She recognized and thanked Dr. Ben Boggs for his work as the Department’s Chief of Staff. Dr. Paccione announced that she will serve as honorary state chair of the 2020 Colorado Combined Campaign.

D. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

II. Discussion Items

A. Strategic discussion among Commission and Staff on the future of higher education in Colorado - *Alison Griffin and Dr. Ben Boggs*

The work session featured a presentation from a panel of leading thinkers in American higher education facilitated by Alison Griffin, from White Board Advisors.

The panel included:

Bridget Burns, Executive Director of the University Innovation Alliance
Ryan Craig, Founding Managing Director of University Ventures
Maria Flynn, President and CEO of JFF
Jeff Selingo, Author & Journalist, former editor of the Chronicle of Higher Education



Themes from the panel include:

- The tremendous transformation in higher education in its economic significance and the manner it can be delivered, and the importance of leadership in guiding its future;
- The importance of aligning higher education more closely with workforce needs by: integrating job-specific skills early, expanding opportunities for students to earn academic credit for work-based experiences, and the need to embed workplace experiences in degree programs;
- The need to challenge the traditional higher education system by focusing on affordability and value, bundling courses, and creating clearer pathways for students to gain credentials and degrees as they need; and
- The need to address equity gaps which are likely to increase if higher education does not adapt to changing technologies and external needs.

In response to the panel, the Commission discussed their support in ensuring Colorado's higher education system is responsive to student and workforce needs. Commissioners requested a discussion on the Department's theory of change to help determine the best way for the Commission to support the Department's work.

III. Consent Items

- A. Recommend Approval of Reauthorization of School Counselor Endorsement Preparation at Denver Seminary– *Dr. Karen Lowenstein*
- B. Recommend Approval of Mentor Teacher Endorsement Preparation Program at Colorado Mountain College – *Dr. Karen Lowenstein*
- C. Recommend Approval of Mentor Teacher Endorsement Preparation Program at Western Colorado University – *Dr. Karen Lowenstein*
- D. Recommend Approval of Mentor Teacher Endorsement Preparation Program at the University of Colorado Denver – *Dr. Karen Lowenstein*
- E. Recommend Approval of Mentor Teacher Endorsement Preparation Program at the University of Denver – *Dr. Karen Lowenstein*
- F. Recommend Approval of Instructional Technology Specialist Endorsement at Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design – *Dr. Karen Lowenstein*
- G. Recommend Approval of Early Childhood Education Endorsement at Colorado Mountain College – *Dr. Brittany Lane*
- H. Recommend Approval of Principal Endorsement at Fort Lewis College – *Dr. Brittany Lane*
- I. Recommend Approval of Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List Amendment - Colorado State University - Fort Collins – *Lauren Gilliland*
- J. Degree Authorization Act – Request for Authorization of Asbury Theological Seminary as a Seminary/Religious Training Institution – *Heather DeLange*

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



IV. Action Items

A. Fiscal Year 2020-21 Financial Aid Allocations – *Emily Burns*

Ms. Burns presented the final fiscal year 2020-21 financial aid allocations by institutional governing board to the Commissioners for approval. She noted that this item had been reviewed by the Fiscal Affairs and Audit subcommittee the prior week and presented as a discussion item for the past two commission meetings. Ms. Burns further noted that state-funded financial aid was spared drastic cuts in light of the COVID-19 induced revenue shortfall that the state experienced during budgetary deliberations, but that the Merit Aid line had been eliminated. Ms. Burns also briefly reviewed the completions-incentive grant formula that allocates the majority of state funded aid dollars.

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve Action Item IV. A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.

B. Approval of 1331 Supplemental for Colorado School of Mines Subsurface Frontiers Building – *Lauren Gilliland*

Mrs. Lauren Gilliland presented an emergency supplemental submitted by Colorado School of Mines. The supplemental requested additional cash spending authority for the institution's Subsurface Frontiers Building capital construction project. The building will be shared between the institution and the United States Geological Survey. Approval allows the institution to accept Federal recovery dollars in the event they become available. Commissioner Colon moved to approve Action Item IV. B. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tucker and passed unanimously. The Commission's approval was forwarded to the Office of State Planning and Budgeting and the Capital Development Committee for their respective approvals.

V. Commission Initiatives

A. Budget and Legislative Update – *Jason Schrock and Chloe Mugg*

Budget Update – Mr. Jason Schrock, CDHE, provided an update on higher education budget challenges. The legislative Joint Budget Committee (JBC) introduced to the legislature a FY 2020-21 state budget package that addressed a \$3.5 billion shortfall. Many state programs were reduced or eliminated, including several of the Department of Higher Education's programs. State funding for public higher education institutions' operating budgets was reduced \$493 million, or 58 percent. However, the Governor allocated \$450 million in federal funds to the state's public higher education institutions from the federal CARES Act through an executive order. This money must be used by institutions for responding to public health needs resulting from COVID-19 and to provide economic support to the state through educating and completing students. Mr. Schrock also reviewed an updated analysis of potential budget gaps faced by institutions that considers the state funding



reduction in the FY 2020-21 budget package and federal funds provided to institutions from the Governor.

Legislative Update – Dr. Ben Boggs, CDHE, provided a legislative update on behalf of Ms. Chloe Mugg who was occupied with the General Assembly in session. Drawing from her notes, he reported:

- The Legislature reconvened on May 25th. The FY20-21 budget has been finalized via the Long Bill.
- The House passed HB 1002 upon its third reading. This bill requires institutions to provide college credit for work experience.
- HB20-1407 has been introduced. This is the CDHE-led effort to waive the standardized test for 2021 High School graduates for admissions purposes. This bill has the sponsorship of Commission advisors Senator Story and Representative Kipp, as well as Representative Baisley. Our 4-year institutions have communicated their support.
- The higher education funding formula was introduced in the House last week and received a unanimous vote upon its third reading. The institutions have maintained their consensus support and have communicated their support for the bill in both chambers.

VI. Special Presentations

A. Policy Fellows Program – *Katie Zaback*

The 2020 Higher Education Policy Fellows Program is a one-semester program offered by the Colorado Department of Higher Education to graduate students in the higher education and public policy fields. Senior Policy Director Katie Zaback provided an overview of the program and fellows Lluvia Garcia, Ashely Johnson, and Diana Zakhem shared their experience. They also discussed the outcomes of their team projects and how they might help inform future work from the Department.

B. Recognition of Commissioners – *Chair McGimpsey*

Retiring Commissioners Gannett and Buescher were recognized and thanked for their many years of service on the Commission and their work for higher education in the state.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

