



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
September 2, 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, Harber, Kostenbauer, Meyer, Scott, Temu Otting, Tucker, Wilson.

Advisors attending: Rep. Cathy Kipp, Sen. Tammy Story, Sen. Kevin Priola, Rep. Julie McCluskie, Rep. Tonya Van Beber, Brad Baca, Mark Cavanaugh, Donnis Hurd, Melinda Piket-May, Colleen O'Neil, Landon Pirius

B. Minutes

Commissioner Meyer moved to approve the July 30, 2021, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Harber, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Chair Report – Chair Kerr reported that this is a busy time for the commission. She attended the Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee meeting and will defer to the committee chair for that report. Conversations are beginning related to HB21-1330 Task Force and those will be reported later as well. She reiterated that the commission exists to support students and keeping that at the forefront is the priority.

Vice Chair Report – Vice Chair Hughes deferred her report to the HB21-1330 Report.

Commissioner Reports – Commissioner Harber reported that he visited Colorado Mesa University with Dr. Paccione. He encouraged all commissioners to get out in the field as much as possible. He also reported that CMU is a national model for their handling of Covid19 and deserves recognition for that work. He encouraged all to read the New York Times story about their work.



Commissioner Kostenbauer reported that she has been visiting many of the four-year institutions and talking with people who oversee work on technology that assists students with disabilities.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported that Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee met on August 19th. A CSU supplemental capital request will be discussed in consent item agenda today. Most of the committee’s time was spent reviewing capital construction and IT projects for this upcoming year. Those items are action items on today’s agenda. Time also was spent discussing the funding formula for FY22/23 and getting a better understanding of its effectiveness and calculations.

Student Success & Workforce Alignment Committee – Commissioner Abramson reported that the committee met on August 23rd. Discussion focused on changes around private postsecondary policy renewal as well as ed prep policies. Dr. Rasmussen presented on work-based learning. This committee will shift to align with the direction of the Department and some of the work of HB21-1330.

Advisor Reports- Advisor Picket-May announced that there will be a statewide faculty forum for the Colorado Faculty Advisory Committee on Friday, September 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. Faculty or any interested parties can join this town hall meeting.

Executive Director Report – Dr. Paccione recognized Commissioners Abramson and Hughes and the Department for their support of the 1330 task force. She also recognized Chloe Figg for her coordination of the work on HB21-1330 as well as for the FAFSA working group. She reported that the COSI board approved about \$10 million in grants for the back-to-work program which is for workers displaced by Covid19. The Esports/gaming committee supported by DHE staff Spencer Ellis and Beverly Jones have just completed a comprehensive 65-page report on making Colorado a gaming hub. We also have a partnership with OEDIT and an upcoming roundtable and trade trip that will focus on climate smart agriculture. We are connecting OEDIT with our university/industry innovation network and the U.S. Affairs Advisory Board. The Department has hired a new chief educational equity officer, Dr. Roberto Montoya. He brings tremendous experience to the position and passion which is an important characteristic. We will be losing Shelley Banker. Shelley has been leading COSI since its inception, about seven years ago.

HB21-1330 Task Force Report- Vice Chair Hughes reported that the 1330 Task Force has been launched and a few orientation meetings have been completed. The full task force consists of about 23 members. Three separate working groups have been convened as well. The strong desire was to make sure that that role and mission conversation wasn’t just in the abstract, but it was put in the context of a broader vision. She recognized the work of Dr. Kim Poast and her team on the response to the feedback from everyone. Commissioner Abramson reported that the task force and the working groups have a broad diversity of perspectives. Today they met with all the working group members and undertook an exercise for people to share their aspirations. It was incredibly inspiring to see how high of a bar everybody is setting. Commissioner Abramson recognized Vice Chair Hughes, department staff, facilitators, and the Governor’s office for all their work so far in this process.



Public Comment – There was no public comment.

II. Consent Items

- A.** Recommendation for Approval of the 2022 Commission Meeting Schedule –
Katrina Weitzel
- B.** Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation of the Renewal of Religious
Training Institutions – *Heather DeLange*
- C.** Recommendation of Approval of Amendment to Pikes Peak Community College
Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List – *Ashlee Pate*
- D.** Recommendation of Approval to Reduce Cash Spending Authority for Colorado
State University-Fort Collins Shepardson Building Renovation and Addition–
Ashlee Pate

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

III. Action Items

- A.** CCHE Recommendation on the Funding Allocation Formula
– *Jason Schrock and Emma Fedorchuk*

Mr. Jason Schrock, CDHE, began by discussing the Commission’s statutory authority to offer a recommendation on the funding formula. He discussed where the Commission’s recommendation fits into the budget schedule for FY 2022-23.

Ms. Emma Fedorchuk, CDHE, provided an overview of the funding formula established by HB 20-1366. Commissioners asked questions about the formula structure, including what aspects of the formula the Commission can recommend changes, as well as the weightings of the performance metrics. They also discussed the various performance metrics limitations that measure specific student body subsets that may not capture the full picture of an institution’s performance. Staff noted that per statute the Commission and Department are tasked with reviewing and recommending ways to better capture students not included in the traditional ‘first time full time’ cohort by July 1, 2022.

Mr. Schrock continued by discussing the Commission’s recommendation process for FY 2022-23. He discussed the language adopted by the Commission at its June meeting that guided the development of a funding formula recommendation. The proposal developed by institutions is aligned with the approved language.



Mr. Schrock also discussed the base cost increases for institutions, which are the personnel and operating cost increases institutions experience annually as part of their normal course of business. The Commissioners had questions regarding the assumptions used for the development of the estimated base cost increases for FY 2022-23. Mr. Schrock discussed how the estimate compared with both total state funding to institutions and total Education and General (E&G) funding to institutions.

Mr. Schrock continued by discussing the federal COVID relief funds that institutions have received. These are one-time funds that institutions have used to address their budget challenges during the pandemic. The money has been used for COVID-related expenses, backfilling lost revenue due to the pandemic, and paying for personnel to educate and support student success to support the workforce during the pandemic.

Ms. Fedorchuk discussed the institutions' FY 2022-23 funding formula proposal for the Commission's consideration, starting with the step 1 recommendations to use the same set of equity-related metrics as in FY 2021-22, as they continue to be priorities. While the metrics are the same, the recommendation includes a greater weight on the metric measuring retention of students included in the Department's race and ethnicity metric. Staff noted that only one institution indicated they would not support the step one proposal as presented. In step two, staff and Commissioners discussed the total estimated cost increases for the 2022-23 fiscal year, and how those costs might be covered through general fund investment, tuition increases, or a combination of the two. The Commission also discussed the potential impact of increases in tuition on students.

The Commission discussed whether to make a funding formula recommendation for the Governor's office. It did not take action on a formula recommendation, but instead adopted a motion to schedule a special meeting with institutions to get additional perspective on the formula and related issues.

B. Recommendation of Approval of Fiscal Year 2022-23 State-Funded Capital Projects and Priority Lists

– *Ashlee Pate*

Ashlee Pate, CDHE, discussed the prioritized Capital Construction and Capital IT requests reviewed by the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee. The Commissioners on this committee reviewed 34 Capital Construction requests and 11 Capital IT requests on August 19th. Commissioner Tucker stated that this was the first review with new criteria and stated this new criterion would be reviewed again moving forward to make sure it is the most effective scoring criteria for the institutions. The Commission discussed the



shifts in scoring and the impacts of the pandemic emphasizing an increase in requests related to deferred maintenance.

Commissioner Abramson made the motion to approve the prioritized lists and Commissioner Tucker seconded.

IV. Discussion Items

- A.** Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part V: Creation of Academic and Vocational Programs at Public Institutions of Higher Education (to comply with HB21-1330) – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Chris Rasmussen, CDHE, presented proposed policy revisions regarding approval of Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs at community colleges, and approval of other bachelor's degree programs at Colorado Mountain College, to comply with House Bill 21-1330. In both cases statute allows programs to be approved by the respective governing boards without CCHE approval.

- B.** Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part J: Degree Authorization Act – *Heather DeLange*

Heather DeLange, CDHE, reviewed the proposed amendments to CCHE Policy Section I, Part J. Most of the proposed changes are a result of HB21-1306 which outlines specific allowances for accreditation requirements for construction education institutions. Ms. DeLange also identified sections which could use some modernization or clarification.

Vice Chair Hughes mentioned that between the discussion item at the Commission meeting and the discussion at the Student Success and Academic Affairs Subcommittee meeting, the Commission feels comfortable with the proposed amendments and would support the item be on the next meeting's consent agenda.

V. Commission Initiatives

- A.** Presentation: Transforming Educator Preparation – *panel discussion facilitated by Dr. Brittany Lane*

Brittany Lane, CDHE, facilitated a discussion of important topics being addressed in educator preparation through a three-part panel presentation which included:

- Ensuring Quality – *Dr. Ann Sebald, Assistant Professor and Co-Director, Center for Educator Preparation, Colorado State University*



- Researching Financial Barriers – *Mary Beth Snow and Liz Bohl, Graduate students, Dr. Ashley Cartun, Director of Teacher Education, and Dr. Krishna Pattisapu, Director of Diversity Recruitment and Retention, University of Colorado, Boulder*
- Diversifying the Educator Workforce – *Mrs. Mary Bowens, Principal, Timberline Elementary School*

Commissioners discussed opportunities to support educator preparation candidates to include a request from Commissioner Abramson for a follow-up presentation to the Student Success and Workforce subcommittee. Chair Kerr asked for a presentation to include policy recommendations.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

