



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200
Denver, CO 80202

Meeting	Academic Council May 13, 2025 1:00 – 3:00 pm
Location	Remote ONLY
Call-In Information	Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 883 8647 0953 Passcode: 255074
Meeting Participants	Provosts and Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) of the public institutions of higher education
Meeting Objectives	Members advise the Department on policy development and implementation, as well as other matters affecting higher education.

AGENDA -- NOTES

1. Greetings and Introductions

In attendance: Margaret Doell (ASU); Kris Greer (FLC); Cher Hendricks (CMU); Roze Hentschell (CSU-SYS); Andy Herring (CSM); Mark Kavanaugh (CU Boulder); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Matt Makley (MSU Denver); Dave Oehler (Aims); Audra Spicer (CSUG); Lynn Vidler (UCCS); Jess Young (WCU); Beth Myers (CU Denver); Chealsye Bowley (CDHE); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Liliana Diaz Soloduhkin (CDHE); Carl Einhaus (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE)

2. Approval of March Meeting Notes

[see handout: 2025-03-11 NOTES-AC.pdf]

Notes approved

3. Announcements and Discussion Items

a. Introduction of Brad Griffith, new Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation

Carl introduced Brad Griffith as the new Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation for CDHE and invited him to share information about his background and answer questions from Council members.

b. 2025 Colorado Open Educational Resources (OER) Conference (Chealsye Bowley, CDHE)

Chealsye Bowley, Director of Open Education and Learning Innovation, extended an invitation to Council members to attend the annual OER Conference, scheduled for Friday, May 30 at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. The theme this year is “Mapping the Open Road: Navigating the Future of OER.” Chealsye informed Council members that this year’s conference will feature over 20 presentations, workshops, and panel sessions that follow beginner, collaboration, STEM, student engagement, and sustainability tracks – there are sessions for all experience and knowledge levels of open education. Registration details were provided in a follow-up email.

c. 2025 Legislative Session Update

Carl and Brad provided a brief update on several bills that DHE was tracking this legislative session:

- SB25-087 Academic Adjustments in Higher Education: 4/9/2025 Sent to the Governor
- SB25-120 Nuclear Workforce Development and Education Program: 4/29/2025 House Committee on Finance Refer Unamended to Appropriations
- HB25-1038 Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website: 5/5/2025 Senate Third Reading Passed – No Amendments
- HB25-1041 Student Athlete Name Image or Likeness: 3/28/2025 Governor Signed
- HB25-1186 Work-Based Learning Experiences in Higher Ed: 5/2/2025 Senate Third Reading Passed – No Amendments
- HB25-1218 Concurrent Enrollment and Higher Education Courses: No updates; postponed indefinitely
- HB25-1221 Emily Griffith Associate of Applied Science Degree: 4/10/2025 Governor Signed

Carl also informed Council members about SB25-276 – under current law, a person who does not have lawful immigration status must submit an affidavit stating that they have either applied for lawful presence or will apply for lawful presence as soon as they are eligible when they are applying for in-state tuition classification. This bill repeals the affidavit requirements for these students.

d. Standardized fee structure for prior learning assessment reviews (e.g., portfolios, work-based learning, industry credentials, etc.)

Brad led Council members in a discussion regarding the landscape of fees for prior learning assessment reviews in the state. Council members reported that fees vary across institutions for prior learning to be reviewed for academic credit. DHE staff expressed interest in exploring a standardized fee structure for prior learning

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assessment reviews. Council members encouraged DHE staff to include registrars in this discussion.

e. Updates from CCHE Advisor Michael Lightner

Dr. Lightner informed Council members that he was unable to attend the CCHE meeting that was held on May 2 but attended the CCHE Student Success & Workforce Development Standing Committee that occurred on April 21. He reported that the standing committee has been working this academic year to learn more about the different pathways to postsecondary credentials. The committee would like to provide recommendations on ways the Commission can support access and awareness for these different pathways.

Carl and Brad provided a brief overview of the CCHE meeting – they informed Council members that updates on the statewide longitudinal data system (SLDS) and the funding formula review were provided, as well as the approval of the cannabis-related certificate program at Colorado State University Pueblo.

f. CCHE Advisor position – renewal of Michael Lightner

Carl informed Council members that Department staff extended an invitation to Dr. Lightner to renew his term as the CCHE Advisor representative for Academic Council. No objections were raised – Council members were enthusiastic that Dr. Lightner would be representing them for another term. Dr. Lightner thanked Department staff for the opportunity to serve for another term and expressed appreciation amongst his fellow Council members for entrusting him to provide the CAO perspective at CCHE meetings.

4. New, modified, and closed programs

a. New

• Adams State University

- Undergraduate Certificate in Foundational Skills
- Undergraduate Certificate in General Business
- Undergraduate Certificate in Health Care Administration
- Undergraduate Certificate in Pre-Nursing
- Associate of Arts in Social Studies
- Associate of Arts in Studio Art
- Associate of Arts in Theatre
- Associate of Science in General Business
- Associate of Science in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
- Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology
- Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies – Food Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology

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- Graduate Certificate in Adams State Health Care Administration
- Graduate Certificate in Business Leadership
- Graduate Certificate in Business Qualitative Skills
- Graduate Certificate in Business Quantitative Skills
- Graduate Certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Sport
- Graduate Certificate in Finance
- Graduate Certificate in Public Administration
- Graduate Certificate in School Counseling
- Graduate Certificate in Teaching of History at the College Level
- Graduate Certificate in TESOL
- Master of Arts in Leadership in Education Administration and Development, Higher Education Administration and Leadership (non-licensure)
- Master of Arts in Leadership in Education Administration and Development, Superintendent License
- Master of Science in Kinesiology Coaching
- Master of Science in Kinesiology Exercise Science
- Master of Science in Kinesiology Sport Administration
- Colorado School of Mines
 - Master of Science in Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage
 - Professional Master's Degree in Computer Science
- Colorado State University
 - Bachelor of Science in Fermentation and Food Science
- Colorado State University Pueblo
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Institute of Cannabis Research – Foundational Studies in Cannabis
- Western Colorado University
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Illustration
 - Undergraduate Certificate in Nonprofit Administration
 - Graduate Certificate in Ecological Analysis
 - Graduate Certificate in Ecosystem Restoration
 - Graduate Certificate in Restorative Facilitation

b. Modified

- Adams State University
 - Bachelor of Arts in Geology/Earth Science changed to Bachelor of Arts in Geosciences
 - Bachelor of Science in Geology/Earth Science changed to Bachelor of Science in Geosciences
- Metropolitan State University of Denver

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- Graduate Certificate in Dietetic Internship changed to Graduate Certificate in Coordinated Program
 - University of Colorado Colorado Springs
 - Bachelor of Arts in Human Services changed to Bachelor Arts in Behavioral Health and Human Services
 - Western Colorado University
 - Master of Behavioral Science in Rural Community Health to Master of Behavioral Science
 - Master of Science in High Altitude Exercise Physiology to Master of Science in Applied Exercise Science and Performance
- c. Closed Programs
- Adams State University
 - Bachelor of Arts in Applied Business
 - Bachelor of Arts in Creative Writing
 - Bachelor of Arts in Criminology
 - Bachelor of Arts in Public Relations
 - Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics
 - Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Sciences
 - Master of Arts in Art
 - Master of Arts in Humanities
 - Colorado Mesa University
 - Graduate Certificate in Initial Teacher Licensure K-12 Physical Education

ACTION ITEMS

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned

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