



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
At Colorado Department of Higher Education, 1600 Broadway, Suite 2300  
March 6, 2020**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Chair Tom McGimpsey called the business meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

**I. Opening Business**

**A. Attendance**

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

Advisors attending: Sen. Story. Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Rick Miranda, David Olguin, Brad Baca, Christina Powell (by phone), Misti Ruthven

**B. Minutes**

Commissioner Abramson moved to approve the minutes for the February 7, 2020 Commission meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Hughes. Passed unanimously.

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

Chair McGimpsey reported that February has been a busy month with ongoing discussions about the development of a funding formula and communication with the Ute tribes. The item on the agenda titled Bold Ideas is a placeholder for future discussions the Commissioners might want to engage in.

The SSAA Committee did not meet this month, so there is no report.

Commissioner Tucker reported on the meeting of the Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee. There was discussion about the creation and composition of the new funding allocation formula, which will be reported on later in this meeting.

Advisor Cavanaugh reported on a conference call with his peers representing private higher education in 35 other states. A Higher Education Reauthorization



Act in highly likely this year. Title IX rules are imminent. They will create a lot of complexity at both the state and federal level. Corona virus was also discussed. States are moving to online classes and study abroad programs are being halted.

#### **D. Executive Director Report**

On Saturday (Feb 29), Dr. Paccione met with student leaders to discuss their issues and prepare them for the Commissions' working session that took place this morning. This week was OER week. The goal was to raise awareness and showcase the impact of open education resources on teaching and learning worldwide. She thanked Spencer Ellis for leading the great advances in this area. Dr. Paccione reported that she was a keynote speaker at Aims Community College during their campus-wide professional development day. She also participated in Greeley Day at the Capitol. In mid-February, she participated in a Governor's Advisors retreat in Miami. The focus was on workforce development and strengthening the governor's policy team. The department is preparing events around Pi Day (Mar 14) and promotion of FAFSA completion. Dr. Paccione held a community townhall meeting that was extremely well received. The purpose of the meetings is to engage parents and students in 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Future townhall meetings are planned for Ft. Morgan and Ft. Carson. Commissioners are encouraged to attend. The position of Chief Educational Equity Officer is still in the proposed budget with the hope that it will be funded. An Educational Equity Commission may be formed to complete a needs analysis on the K-20 realm.

**E. Public Comment** – There was no public comment.

## **II. Consent Items**

- A.** Recommend Approval of Limited Waiver of GT Pathways Requirements for the Bachelor of Applied Science Degree Program in Advanced Paramedic Practice at Arapahoe, Pikes Peak, and Pueblo Community Colleges – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*
- B.** Recommend Approval of Limited Waiver of GT Pathways Requirements for the Bachelor of Applied Science Degree Program in Secure Software Development at Pueblo Community College – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*
- C.** Recommend Approval of Limited Waiver of GT Pathways Requirements for the Bachelor of Applied Science Degree Program in Health Science and Administration at Colorado State University-Pueblo – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*
- D.** Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation of Authorization as a Seminary/Religious Training Institution for Wagner University – *Heather DeLange*

Upon request from Chair McGimpsey, Chris Rasmussen, CDHE Director of Academic Affairs, summarized the first three items. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve Consent Items A-D. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Abramson and passed unanimously.



### III. Action Items

- A. Revision of CCHE Policy I, Part V: Creation of Academic Programs – Process for Review and Approval of Cannabis-Related Programs at Any Institution and Select Baccalaureate Degree Programs at Colorado Community College System Institutions and Local District Colleges – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Chris Rasmussen, CDHE Director of Academic Affairs, presented proposed revisions to the policy that codify a review process for academic programs requiring approval by the Commission, and for which there are specific requirements in statute that go beyond fit with institutional role and mission. He noted that the item was originally brought to the Commission for discussion in September, and additional revisions were made in response to commissioner and stakeholder feedback. A new section related to cannabis-related programs was added to comply with HB19-1311.

Commission Abramson moved to approve proposed revisions to the policy. Commissioner Hughes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### IV. Discussion Items

- A. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part E: Developmental Education and Proposed Repeal of CCHE Policy I, Part W: Supplemental Academic Instruction – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen and Katie Zaback*

Chris Rasmussen, CDHE Director of Academic Affairs, and Katie Zaback, Senior Policy Director, presented proposed revisions to the Commission's Developmental Education policy, which are in response to House Bill 19-1206 (Concerning Removing Equity Gaps in Higher Education by Ensuring More Students Have Access to Supplemental Academic Instruction). They also proposed repealing the Commission's policy on supplemental academic instruction, since the provisions of that policy either were rendered moot by HB 19-1206 or can be subsumed within the developmental education policy. Dr. Rasmussen and Ms. Zaback reviewed the extensive stakeholder process that informed staff recommendations on policy revisions. Ms. Zaback also presented the proposed data framework for the required developmental education report.

A robust discussion followed. Commissioners Hughes and Stich asked if the proposed changes aligned with reform efforts in other states. Ms. Zaback affirmed that they were, and that the staff would gather evidence of such and provide it to the Commission. Chair McGimpsey asked about the timeline for Commission action on the recommendations. Dr. Rasmussen replied that in the absence of extensive feedback requiring substantial further change, an April approval was reasonable, but that action in May would also be acceptable.



B. FY 2020-21 Undergraduate Need-Based Financial Aid Allocation Models – *Emily Burns*

Ms. Emily Burns presented information on the undergraduate need-based aid allocation methodology. She clarified that it uses vetted institutional data on Pell-eligible undergraduate resident enrollments to develop individual institutional allocations. Staff also discussed this year’s budget situation given that the November 1 budget request sought a 2 percent increase, but that a 7 percent increase was also possible. Staff explained the impact this range will have on the undergraduate need-based aid allocation scenarios. Staff also discussed the importance of guardrails in the allocation methodology, given the need for some stability in year-to-year allocations. Staff briefly analyzed each guardrail scenario and the impact on the allocation formula that occurs via a 2%, 5%, or 7% increase. Staff closed by noting that the purpose of this discussion was to answer commission questions in preparation for an Action Item at the April meeting.

C. Colorado Mountain College: Role and Mission – *Katie Zaback*

Matt Gianneschi, the Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Staff from Colorado Mountain College (CMC) discussed CMC’s current mission and vision. His presentation emphasized that CMC considers itself a dual-mission institution and would like to change the statute to allow CMC to offer bachelor’s degree programs without CCHE oversight. He provided a timeline of CMC’s history, which included their ability to offer a limited number of bachelor’s degrees with Commission approval beginning in 2008. Commissioners had a robust conversation about the importance of limiting administrative burden and encouraging innovation while still maintaining valuable state-wide coordination. Such coordination helps to minimize unnecessary duplication statewide and ensures that unintended consequences of individual institutional actions do not harm students or the larger higher-education ecosystem.

**V. Commission Initiatives**

A. Funding Allocation Formula Update – *Jason Schrock, Emily Burns and Emma Fedorchuk, Brad Baca, Western Colorado University*

Mr. Jason Schrock, Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Emily Burns, Senior Finance Analyst, and Ms. Emma Fedorchuk, Budget and Finance Analyst, CDHE, presented the funding allocation formula revisions. The state’s governing boards have collaborated to create a model that has its foundation in the Departments prior work and meets the goals established by the Commission and the Governor’s office during the formula review process. Legislation is being drafted for this legislative session.

Staff explained that the allocation formula, which allocates 100% of funding, has two steps. The first step allows for targeted, base-building funding to be allocated



on a governing board basis for various purposes tied to budgetary needs and initiatives related to the CCHE Master Plan. The second allocates funding based on a set of seven metrics: resident enrollment, credential completion, Pell-eligible student share, underrepresented minority student share, retention rate, graduation rate, and first generation student share. Advisor Brad Baca, who has been involved in governing board discussions on the funding process, also discussed a potential third step in which one-time funding requests and allocations would be transparently shown.

Staff also presented preliminary recommendations on the role of the CCHE in the first step of the formula. Staff proposed a process similar to the capital construction prioritization process, in which institutions submit proposals for initiatives tied to Master Plan goals that would be scored by staff and presented to the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee for consideration and to the full Commission for approval. This list would then be transmitted to the Governor's office and the legislature for consideration during the budget process. Staff also outlined a possible timeline for Step One guidelines, submissions, scoring, and prioritization should this proposed formula become law. Staff expressed their intent to engage with institutions further before bringing an official recommendation to the Commission should this legislation move forward.

Commissioners discussed the scope of their potential role in prioritizing Step One funding, and expressed support for the model's goals and structure.

#### **B. Legislative Update – *Chloe Mugg***

With Chloe Mugg, Legislative Liaison, tending to business at the Capitol, Ben Boggs, Chief of Staff, and Alex Brown, Legislative Intern, updated the Commissioners on the Department's 2020 Legislative Agenda and Budget items. Dr. Boggs noted that the 2020 session is exactly halfway completed with ten weeks left before Sine Die. He highlighted a number of bills impacting higher education that are currently in the legislative process.

### **VI. Written Reports**

#### **A. 2019 Talent Pipeline Report – *Jean Dougherty***

Jean Dougherty gave a brief overview of the main data points and strategies identified in the 2019 Colorado Talent Pipeline Report. Data points included top jobs, labor force participation rates, postsecondary attainment rates, and unemployment rates. Strategies included regional public-private partnerships, skills-based hiring, raising awareness for various resources, and reducing potential barriers for Coloradans.

