



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
May 1, 2020**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Tom McGimpsey called the business meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

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

Advisors attending: Rep. Kipp, Sen. Lundeen, Sen. Todd, Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, David Olguin, Brad Baca, Rick Miranda, Christina Powell, Misti Ruthven

B. Minutes

Commissioner Buescher moved to approve the minutes for the April 3, 2020 Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gannett and passed unanimously.

C. Election of Officers

Chair McGimpsey called for new nominations for Chair or Vice Chair. Chair McGimpsey and Vice Chair Kerr both consented to serving another term. Both were reappointed by unanimous vote.

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

Chair McGimpsey thanked Governor Polis for speaking to the Commission during the work session prior to this meeting. He challenged commissioners to think creatively about how student and institution needs can be addressed so a stronger system can be established online with masterplan and affordability goals in mind. Commissioner Abramson requested that several hours be dedicated to



discussing innovative ideas at the next meeting and subsequent meetings. Commissioner Hughes agreed with this request and asked that department staff help with ideas and brainstorming innovation. Chair McGimpsey requested a meeting with ED Paccione and Dr. Boggs to develop the agenda for the June meeting with these requests in mind.

Vice Chair Kerr thanked the commission for entrusting her with the vice chair role for the year ahead. She also thanked Dr. Paccione and Dr. Boggs for making arrangements for Dr. Paccione to participate in the College Track Regional Meeting last week. Vice Chair Kerr agrees that now is a great time for the commissioners to begin thinking about what happens next in higher ed. She encouraged commissioners to take what we have all experienced and what our institutions are going through and use this as an opportunity to develop learning around it and put together the right strategy going forward so that we can be more efficient and provide a better experience for our students, families and communities as we go forward.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported that the April 12th meeting of the committee was an information update from Jason Schrock and the Finance team. There was discussion around potential “what ifs” for the state budget, trying to get greater understanding of the CARES Act and what that funding could be used for in higher education.

The third thread of conversation was a look at federal funding headed directly to the higher education institutions and how they might be able to allocate that to best maximize its usefulness for students and for institutions.

Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee – Commissioner Gannett reported that the committee had a conversation about the statewide articulation agreement which will be discussed in detail later today. They also spent the majority of time talking about COVID-19 and the impact on potential new college going students and current college going students. The commission can really take the opportunity during this crisis to think outside of the box and think about ways to support institutions, leverage what great things are going on out there and try to alleviate any of the stumbling that happened when this first came about and if it happens again.

Advisor Artis - The Colorado Faculty Advisory Council had its spring meeting and elected new officers. The council met with the chief of staff of HLC and one of his staffers to discuss faculty concerns with concurrent enrollment programs. They also discussed students’ needs and the prerequisite need for some on the ground quality control, the ability of high schools to change college grades or not and an instructor of record issue.



Representative Cathy Kipp thanked the commission for the work being done and for focusing on the opportunities presented by the current situation. She reviewed the challenges facing the state budget and the coming deficit and encouraged commissioners to consider ways to save money and to preserve programs that should not be cut.

Advisor Olguin reported that he is on several student panels and is hearing about food insecurity and making sure that students have access to food. We have campuses that are doing mobile donations, putting together packages and delivering them to students which is not the case on all campuses. There is definitely concern from the students that are graduating this semester and going into an economy that is not strong when looking for a job.

Advisor Baca reported that Western completed and posted an emergency grant application and within an hour had over 65 applications for over \$110,000. This is federal funding made available through the CARES Act.

Advisor Cavanaugh thanked Dr. Paccione and all those who have worked collaboratively in drafting the Title IX letter to the US DOE.

Executive Director Report – Dr. Paccione reported that the department is getting some funding for students in need from Single Stop. Single Stop is an organization that addresses things like food insecurity, housing insecurity, transportation challenges and access to federal benefits students might qualify for, but don't know about. The department staff are all working from home at this time. We have had great success with the No Lapse in Learning campaign that has secured over 650 laptops and delivered them throughout the state. The department continues to host weekly stakeholder convenings with the CEOs. We've also hosted weekly Chief Academic Officers as well as meetings with counselors and academic advisors. Dr. Paccione introduced the department's new IT director, Jimmy Rogers. She thanked the department deputy director, Inta Morris for her remarkable leadership as our representative on the COVID19 emergency team.

E. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

II. Consent Items

A. Recommend Approval of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Bilingual Education Specialist at Metropolitan State University of Denver – *Dr. Brittany Lane*

Commissioner Gannett moved to approve Consent Item A. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buescher and passed unanimously.



III. Action Items

- A. Approve New Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements in Computer Science, Dance, Journalism and Public Health – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Dr. Chris Rasmussen, CDHE Director of Academic Affairs, provided context for the Department’s work to develop Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements, which are statutorily mandated agreements among public institutions for student transfer from an associate’s to a bachelor’s degree in the same academic discipline or programmatic area. Dr. Rasmussen outlined the process to develop four new agreements in computer science, dance, journalism, and public health, which would bring the total number of statewide transfer agreements to 38.

Commissioner Gannett moved to approve new Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements in Computer Science, Dance, Journalism, and Public Health, pending the obtainment of signatures to the agreements from the chief academic officers of participating institutions and systems. Commissioner Colon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Discussion Items

- A. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part L: Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways Policy (to facilitate statewide transfer agreements in engineering) – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Dr. Chris Rasmussen, CDHE Director of Academic Affairs, described the minor changes to the policy that are required to move forward with a statewide transfer agreement in mechanical engineering. The proposed changes would allow for associate degrees with designation that go beyond 60 credits to facilitate transfer in certain disciplines or fields. This includes areas in which the associated bachelor’s degree program has received a waiver from the 120-credit cap, or has received a waiver from GT Pathways curriculum requirements. The changes will accommodate the mechanical engineering transfer agreement in development, as well as future agreements in other engineering fields and other disciplines where the bachelor’s degree requires more than 120 credits.

A motion was made by Commissioner Abramson to move the agenda item from discussion to action and seconded by Commissioner Bueschler. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Colon then moved to approve proposed revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part L, Statewide Transfer and GT Pathways Policy. Commissioner Stich seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- B. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part E: Developmental Education and 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, CDHE 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. They highlighted additional proposed revisions made since the March Commission meeting in light of dramatically changed circumstances due to COVID-19. Specifically, proposed additional revisions included removing the distinction between “primary” and “secondary” assessments, and eliminating the requirement that institutions use an assessment on a provided list (such as the SAT or the ACCUPLACER) in determining placement of students into gateway coursework or some form of developmental education.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hughes to move the agenda item from discussion to action and seconded by Commissioner Bueschler. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Abramson then moved to approve proposed changes to CCHE Policy Section I, Part E: Developmental Education, and to repeal CCHE Policy Section I, Part W: Supplemental Academic Instruction. Commissioner Hughes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Commission Initiatives

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

Legislative Update – Ms. Chloe Mugg, Legislative Liaison for the Department, reviewed possible timelines for the reconvening of the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) and General Assembly in the month of May to finalize the state budget. Ms. Mugg updated the Commission on the Department’s legislative priorities for when the legislature reconvenes, which includes expanding the use of open educational resources, the revised higher education funding formula and HB20-1002.

State Budget Update – Mr. Jason Schrock, CDHE CFO, provided an update on the state budget situation and its implications for higher education funding. There will be a revised state revenue forecast on May 12, which is expected to show a budget shortfall of around \$3 billion, or about 20 percent. As a result, higher education operating funding from the state is likely to receive a reduction. Funding for higher education capital projects is also expected to be eliminated. The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) budget analyst for higher education has put forth numerous budget reduction options and recommendations



for the JBC. The analyst is recommending that higher education operating funding be reduced at the same amount as the overall state budget reduction, with lesser cuts to certain smaller, more vulnerable institutions. The analyst is also recommending state funding for some Department programs and initiatives be reduced or eliminated in the budget.

Higher education institutions face a substantial amount of uncertainty for their budgets in FY 2020-21. At this time, the amount of funding from the state is unknown, and student enrollment in the fall is highly uncertain. As a result, institutions are working with scenarios for their budget planning purposes. Mr. Schrock discussed a graph showing scenarios of possible budget gaps for the state's governing boards. Institutions are looking at a range of options to address their expected budget shortfalls, such as cuts in facility maintenance, consolidating and eliminating academic programs, reducing student support services, reducing financial aid, and compensation and workforce reductions. As a result of the significant budget challenges, higher education institutions across the country are advocating for additional federal funding assistance through another stimulus package.

VI. Written Reports

A. Update on Legislative Reports – *Katie Zaback and Michael Vente*

Katie Zaback and Michael Vente presented the initial findings of two upcoming reports. CDHE notified the legislature of a delay in releasing these reports due to the burden of COVID-19 response on school districts.

The Access and Success for Colorado's High School graduates report defined in C.R.S §23-1-113 will be released on May 15th. The 2020 report shows college-going rates continue to stay consistent, but students who do go to postsecondary are more likely to complete. It also includes a robust discussion of pathways into postsecondary education. The report is available here: <https://highered.colorado.gov/pathways-to-prosperity-postsecondary-access-and-success-for-colorados-high-school-graduates>

The Concurrent Enrollment Report is a joint report by CDE and CDHE and is defined in C.R.S. §22-35-112. This year's report shows that Concurrent Enrollment rates are continuing to increase for all student populations. A final release date for this report is forthcoming. The report will be available here: <https://highered.colorado.gov/concurrent-and-dual-enrollment>

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm.

