



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting**  
**Via ZOOM Teleconference**  
**December 2, 2021**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Chair Vanecia Kerr called the business meeting to order at 1:01pm.

**I. Opening Business**

**A. Attendance**

Commissioners attending: Chair Kerr, Vice Chair Hughes, Commissioners Abramson, Harber, Kostenbauer, Meyer, Scott, Trujillo, Tucker, Wilson.

Advisors attending: Rep. Cathy Kipp, Sen. Rachel Zenzinger, Brad Baca, Mark Cavanaugh, Donnis Hurd, Dr. Melinda Piket-May, Dr. Landon Pirius

**B. Minutes**

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the October 22, 2021, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Abramson, the motion passed by consent.

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

**Chair Report** – Chair Kerr recognized the impressive work being done by the 1330 Task Force and thanked Vice Chair Hughes and Commissioner Abramson for their commitment to the work and to the success of the task force.

**Vice Chair Report** – Vice Chair Hughes recognized the 1330 Task Force members and department staff who are all working diligently on the completion of the task force report.

**Commissioner Reports** – Commissioner Kostenbauer shared photos of a visit to CSU with Dr. Paccione, Commissioner Scott, and Beverly Jones (CDHE Director of Industry Partnerships). The visit included a campus tour and review of work being done in industry partnerships. Commissioner Kostenbauer also met with Chancellor Joe Garcia of the Community College System. They discussed the challenges of career preparation for students gaining an associate degree.

Commissioner Scott reiterated that the CSU visit was well done. He believes the programs are very impactful and would like to see this work expanded to reach more students.



**Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee** – Commissioner Tucker reported that the committee had a presentation and discussion with staff on the financial aid allocation methodology.

**Student Success & Workforce Alignment Committee** – Commissioner Abramson reported that several of the committee's items will be brought to the commission in today's agenda. Topics discussed include the issue of stranded credits, access to transcripts when money is owed to the IHE, and debt forgiveness.

**Advisor Reports** – Dr. Piket-May reported that faculty have been discussing advising and that high school advisors seem focused on getting students into college, but not necessarily into the right classes for their preferred degree program. Concurrent enrollment classes do not align with what students need and credits that count. She advocated for wraparound services and putting more funding into advising.

Advisor Cavanaugh announced that Fr. Fitzgibbons will be retiring as president of Regis University at the end of the year.

**Executive Director Report** – Dr. Paccione recognized CDHE Director of Industry Partnerships Beverly Jones for her work and the recent tour of CSU and those industry partnership programs. She reported that the department has started to convene advisors and offers a training program called LEAD. The work of the 1330 Task Force is going exceptionally well under the capable leadership of Vice Chair Hughes and Commissioner Abramson. The department staff have devoted an inordinate amount of time and energy to this project and are committed to its success. Also of note, the department is continuing its search for a CFO. Dr. Paccione reported that there were about 9,500 international students enrolled at IHEs in Colorado. They contribute about \$300 million to the state's economy and about 3,500 jobs – so this is a vital component in higher education. The department just completed a conference on Educator Preparation. The focus of the convening was how to diversify education educators. The CO Helps apprenticeship program for healthcare professions had an increase of about 32% despite the pandemic. Several department staff attended the SHEEO Policy Conference in Washington DC, last month. She reported that she is serving on the USDOE negotiated rule making subcommittee on prison education as well as the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice. There is work to be done both in the juvenile and adult prison education programs. Her work on the Early Childhood Leadership Commission is focused on the new department of early childhood and making sure that those colleges with early childhood programs have a childcare center that can also be a clinical site for the students who are becoming early childhood educators.

**HB21-1330 Task Force Report**- Commissioner Abramson thanked Vice Chair Hughes, Commissioner Scott, and department staff for their hard work on the Task Force and on keeping the work on- track. The full draft report began with around 96 recommendations and has now been pared down to key recommendations that include ideas around the use of grants to drive meaningful change and sustainable action to authentically address the equity gaps, better use of data, and things like stackable credentials. The report recommends sustainable programs that can bring about systemic change - this is not just something for policy makers to do. We are grateful for the legislators that created this



project and the dozens of people who have participated. If this work advances into action which is obviously the entire purpose, we stand to make a real impact for students, for employers and for the long-term shape of Colorado postsecondary education.

Vice Chair Hughes reported that a draft of the report will be sent to task force members as early as tomorrow. Feedback from their review will be incorporated into the final draft. They are working with the JBC Chair and legislative representatives to extend the deadline a week or two for the formal final copy of the report. We welcome hearing from all of you about your priorities and how to think about layering CCHE work around 1330.

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

## II. Consent Items

- A. Degree Authorization: Recommendation for Renewal of Full Authorization of Institute of Taoist Education and Acupuncture – *Heather DeLange*
  - B. Degree Authorization: Recommendation for Renewal of Authorization for Religious Training Institutions – *Heather DeLange*
  - C. Degree Authorization: Recommendation for Provisional Authorization of Concorde Career College – *Heather DeLange*
  - D. Recommendation to Approve Reversion of Capital Construction Funds and Cash Spending Authority for Colorado School of Mines Subsurface Frontiers Building Project – *Ashlee Pate*
  - E. Recommend Approval of Physical Education Endorsement at Colorado Christian University – *Dr. Brittany Lane*
  - F. Recommend Approval of School Counselor Endorsement at Colorado Christian University – *Dr. Brittany Lane*

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

### **III. Action Items**

- A. Recommend Approval of Implementation Plan for HB20-1002 (College Credit for Work Experience) and Approval of Related Revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part X: Prior Learning Assessment – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen***

Dr. Chris Rasmussen presented recommendations for commission action to comply with statutory mandates from HB20-1002 by January 1, 2022, and to advance the department's work to help students earn academic credit for prior learning, including learning through work experience. He indicated that the recommendations were substantially similar to those presented to the commission for discussion in October,



with only minor changes to procedure and wording following another round of feedback from the General Education Council and the Academic Council.

Commission Harber moved to approve recommended revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part X: Prior Learning Assessment, and to approve the proposed plan to award college credit for work-related experience to comply with House Bill 20-1002. Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion. Chair Kerr asked for any objections to the motion, and hearing none, stated that the motion was accepted by consent.

#### **IV. Discussion Items**

##### **A. Financial Aid Allocation Methodology Revisions –*Emma Fedorchuk and Lauren Gilliland***

Lauren Gilliland and Emma Fedorchuk provided an update on the ongoing review of the Commission's financial aid allocation formulas. The Finance, Performance and Accountability (FPA) Committee has been engaged in a review of the formulas since summer 2021. Staff has provided regular committee updates and has engaged in discussions with the CFO Advisory Group and the Financial Aid Advisory Group. A joint stakeholder feedback meeting was held, attended by members of the FPA committee, CFOs, and financial aid directors. Staff provided general overviews of the structure of each formula that is due for revision, proposed changes to each formula, and potential outcomes of those changes. Commissioners discussed interest in further review of financial aid allocations and policy through an equity lens, as well as considerations on how overall financial aid funding could be increased.

#### **V. Commission Initiatives**

##### **A. Priorities for the 2022 Legislative Session –*Emma Fedorchuk, Lauren Gilliland, Carl Einhaus, Chloe Figg and CCHE Legislative Advisors***

Lauren Gilliland gave an overview of the 2022-23 executive budget request for higher education. Requests include a 4.6% increase to institutional operating funding and state financial aid, permanent funding for outreach positions within the Department, funding for the Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority (CHECRA) and the Colorado Cannabis Research Center, and resources for a “Single Stop” tool that would help connect eligible students with other federal benefits. Ms. Gilliland also provided information on a forthcoming stimulus funding request for area technical colleges, as well as the \$135 million in capital construction and controlled maintenance funding included in the request. Commissioners discussed the Single Stop request and its connection to the Department’s Hunger Free and Healthy Minds campus designation.

Carl Einhaus provided an overview of what led to the proposed bill titled: “Improving Services for Post-Secondary Students with Disabilities”. The bill would do two main things: 1) Begin a statewide data collection from our state institutions of higher education regarding the number of enrolled students with a disability and the number of students



receiving an accommodation or service because of their disability; and 2) create a task force comprised of experts in and outside of higher education to study and offer recommendations to public colleges and universities, the Commission, and the General Assembly to improve services and outcomes for students with disabilities. The discussion supported this effort, with a reminder to focus on not only how to improve services to our students but also how this work will benefit the state and the workforce.

Chloe Figg introduced the CCHE Legislative Advisors, Senator Rachel Zenzinger, Representative Cathy Kipp, and Representative Tonya Van Beber. The legislative advisors covered their priorities for the 2022 legislative session.

Meeting adjourned at 4:03pm.

