



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
CDHE
February 7, 2019**

Commissioner and Advisor Learning Session

The topic for the Learning Session was “Defining Affordability,” presented by the Colorado Department of Higher Education—Katie Zaback, Emily Burns, Lauren Lopez, Katie Wagon, and Emma Fedorchuk

I. OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman Luis Colón called the business meeting to order at 1:00pm.

A. Attendance

Chairman Luis Colón, Vice Chairman Renny Fagan, Commissioners Maia Babbs, Mary Beth Buescher, Cassie Gannett, Jeanette Garcia, Vanecia Kerr, Pardis Mahdavi (via phone), Tom McGimpsey and Monte Moses attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Wayne Artis, Chad Marturano, Misti Ruthven, Rick Miranda (via phone), Rep. Cathy Kipp, Rep. Kevin Van Winkle, and Sen. Paul Lundeen.

B. Minutes

Commissioner Buescher moved to approve the minutes of the Dec. 6, 2018 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Garcia and passed unanimously.

C. Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners and Advisors Reports

- Chairman Colon recognized the new administration’s commitment to education and higher education. He recognized Dr. Angie Paccione’s background in higher education, the K-12 system and experience as a legislator. Chairman Colon recognized Governor Polis’ approval of former Governor Hickenlooper’s additional funding for the higher education budget for the next fiscal year as well as his agreement with maintaining flat tuition. He expressed excitement over the next few months of working together to move the Master Plan forward.
- Vice Chair Renny Fagan reiterated Chairman Colón’s welcome to Executive Director Paccione and Representative Van Winkle. He thanked Dr. Paccione and the legislative team for reaching out to legislators to include them.
- Commissioner Gannett reported that the standing committee on Student Success and Academic Affairs met earlier and the discussion from that meeting will be presented as an agenda item later in the meeting.

- Mr. Chad Marturano, Institutional Finance Advisory Committee member thanked Dr. Paccione and Governor Polis for the 13% request to the JBC that will keep tuition flat for next year.
- Ms. Misti Ruthven, Advisory Committee K-12 Representative welcomed Dr. Paccione and expressed excitement at the opportunity to work with her and continuing the robust working relationship with Dr. Katy Anthes.

D. Executive Director Report

- Executive Director Paccione reemphasized Governor Polis' four bold goals of free full day kindergarten, reducing healthcare costs, achieving 100% renewable energy by 2040, and some tax reform.
- She recognized two goals for the Department of Higher Education. The first being cost containment/affordability, and the second goal of preparing students for the workforce of the 21st century via different pathways.
- Dr. Paccione reiterated Governor Polis' interest in raising the strength of the commission and reviewing the statutory authority of the commission.
- She reported that meetings have been taking place with presidents and CFOs around the state to begin the funding formula review process. She thanked the staff of the department for all their work in helping her get up to speed in her new role as executive director.

E. Public Comment

Dr. Will Simkins, Vice President for Student Affairs at MSU Denver and Tyler Mounsey, Director of Government Relations at MSU Denver, provided comment on the state of higher education funding formula and its ability to meet the postsecondary needs of all Coloradoans. Dr. Simkins suggested that the funding formula in its current form does not address the goals set forth by the Colorado master plan for higher education and encouraged the commission to use the same master plan to guide current and future revisions to the funding model. Dr. Simkins also encouraged the commission to replace the credit in the formula for those institutions serving large numbers of students of color, particularly those institutions serving black and Latin students. He asked the commission to prioritize Coloradoans and questioned why nonresident students would be given any credit at all in a current funding formula. Dr. Simkins also asked that additional support be considered for institutions in Colorado's growing urban areas where real estate, housing and transportation are all more expensive. He proposed that the master plan for higher education is the right document to guide our state toward meeting these needs. Yet the funding formula that operationalizes this visionary plan is out of sync with the realities of educating in Colorado

II. Consent Items

- A. Final Approval for Recommended Grants for OER Grant Program – Spencer Ellis**
- B. Recommend Authorization to Offer Math Supplemental Academic Instruction at Colorado State University-Pueblo – Dr. Chris Rasmussen**
- C. Degree Authorization Act – Recommendation for Approval of Renewal of Authorization – Heather DeLange**

D. Degree Authorization Act - Request for Place of Business Authorization for Norwich University – Heather DeLange

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve consent items A through D. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gannett and unanimously passed.

III. Presentation

A. Funding Formula – Inta Morris, COO & CFO, CDHE was joined by Scott Boelscher, HCM Strategists to discuss where the department is in this process of looking at the funding formula to make sure that the commission is aware of how it's moving forward and what to expect in the future. Mr. Boelscher presented an analysis of Colorado's funding model and other state examples.

IV. Action Items

A. Date Changes for CCHE Meetings During the Legislative Session – Ms. Stark, Executive Assistant to the Commission, proposed the dates for the Commission meetings, during the Legislative Session in 2019, be changed to Friday afternoons from Thursday afternoons to accommodate the Legislative Advisor's schedules.

Commissioner Moses moved to approve the date changes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGimpsey and unanimously passed.

V. Discussion Items

A. Colorado Community College System Bachelor of Science in Nursing Completion Degree Programs: Update on Program Development and Implementation– Dr. Kim Poast briefed the Commission on activity since passage of HB 18-1086, which granted authority to the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) to create Bachelor of Science in Nursing completion degrees on individual campuses. The State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education approved seven programs at its July 2018 meeting. The Commission held two statewide convenings on the nursing profession in Colorado and how institutions, health care providers, and other stakeholders could work collaboratively to meet nursing workforce needs.

Dr. Landon Pirius, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for CCCS updated the Commission on the development and roll-out of the BSN programs on seven campuses. Three other campuses may develop BSN programs in the future. Commissioner questions for Dr. Pirius concerned the preservation of partnerships with four-year institutions, dual enrollment programs, the number of students CCCS expects to enroll in the BSN programs, how the new BSN programs will compete with existing programs for clinical placement sites, and if specific institutions are planning to develop programs.

B. Request for Waivers from GT-Pathways Requirements for Bachelor of Science in Nursing Programs at Select Colorado Community College System Institutions - Dr. Chris Rasmussen introduced a request from the Colorado Community College System (CCCS) for a waiver from GT-Pathways curricular requirements for BSN programs under development at seven campuses, and provided a brief history on the scope of waivers that have been granted across the

state. In response to future GT-Pathways waiver requests, CDHE staff drafted a set of questions for institutions to answer addressing the twin goals of GT-Pathways to 1) ease student transfer and minimize credit loss in transfer; and 2) promote broad-based learning and competency development through general education. Dr. Landon Pirius from CCCS then addressed the specifics of the system's GT-Pathways request.

Commissioners asked if limitations could be placed on a waiver request so that it was narrowly tailored rather than carte blanche. Dr. Rasmussen indicated that past waivers were of the carte blanche variety, with the understanding that institutions would continue to provide a general education "core of courses" that met the same aims of GT-Pathways. He indicated that the staff would consider how a limited waiver could be structured. Dr. Pirius expressed an openness to a waiver with stipulations.

- C. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part L: Statewide Transfer and gtPathways Policy-** Dr. Chris Rasmussen introduced proposed revision to the CCHE Statewide Transfer and gtPathways Policy, which was last revised in April 2014. The primary purpose of the proposed revision is to incorporate 2018 statutory changes regarding institutional obligations in transfer. Additional purposes are to clarify GT Pathways categories, competencies, and requirements, and to better align the policy with other changes in statute and CCHE policies over the past five years, including the CCHE Prior Learning Assessment policy.

Commissioner questions concerned mechanisms for holding institutions accountable for treating transfer students differently from native students within statewide transfer agreements, and how we can better inform students of their rights and institutions of their obligations. Dr. Rasmussen indicated that Department staff would utilize the CCHE Student Complaint Policy and process to resolve disputes between students and institutions related to the statutory provisions in CRS 23-1-108(7), since the disputes would be fundamentally about transfer rather than billing, and thus under the purview of the Commission.

- D. Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part J: Degree Authorization Act-** Heather Delange, Director of the Office of Private Postsecondary Education, presented the proposed policy changes to the Degree Authorization Act, CCHE policy Section I, Part J. Chairman Colon asked Ms. DeLange if the extension request is adequate or too long for institutions. Ms. DeLange explained that she communicated with several accreditors and states to arrive at the two-year extension suggestion. There were no other questions from the Commissioners.

- E. Legislative Update -** Chloe Mugg, Legislative Liaison, and Amanda DeLaRosa, Chief of Staff, provided Commissioners with an update on the Department's 2019 Legislative Agenda and Budget items. In addition, Ms. Mugg highlighted a number of bills impacting higher education that are currently in the legislative process.

VI. Written Report

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.