



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Virtual
March 3, 2023**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Sarah Hughes called the business meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Hughes, Vice Chair Scott, Executive Director Paccione, Commissioners Abramson, Gonzales, Harber, Kostenbauer, Tucker, Wilson, Temu Otting

Advisors attending: Senator Janise Marchman, Mark Cavanaugh, Federico Chavez, Dr. Colleen O'Neil, Dr. Melinda Piket-May, Dr. Landon Pirius

B. Approval of the Minutes for the February 3, 2023 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the February 3rd meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Abramson, the motion passed by consent.

C. Reports

• **Chair**

Chair Hughes thanked everyone who attended the work session and participated in the robust discussion about the economic forecasts and the challenges of TABOR and the political and economic challenges facing Colorado's higher ed ecosystem. Chair Hughes invited Commissioners Tucker and Abramson to think about the context of the conversation and the competing opportunities and challenges in their work as chairs. Chair Hughes acknowledged President Davidson and an event held at MSU Denver which several commissioners attended. Chair Hughes applauded the work that MSU Denver is doing and noted President Davidson's comments around the strategic plan and the desire for alignment and focus on student outcomes. Finally, she gave a heartfelt appreciation for Ben and his service, time and commitment, and friendship and support.

• **Vice-Chair**

Vice Chair Scott added that he also attended the Metro State University meeting and noted the intentional attention to actions that will reverse the downward trend in enrollment. He also mentioned the importance of supporting more Colorado learners and was excited to see that MSU is making intentional investments in that regard. He also expressed excitement about ways for the commission to support them in that work both directly and through advocacy with policymakers.



- **Commission Standing Committees**

- **Student Success & Workforce Alignment**

Commissioner Abramson reported that the Student Success & Workforce Alignment committee had spent time digging into issues coming before the full commission regarding program and degree reauthorization. The committee also discussed the role of the commission and where it has leverage, and they laid out a six-month plan for the committee. They looked at two issues through the lens of the strategic plan: first, where there is opportunity for real impact in the short term; and second, where there is a real need for ongoing long-term engagement. That led to robust conversation about stackable credentials. The committee is looking forward to making progress on the strategic plan goals.

- **Finance, Performance & Accountability**

Commissioner Tucker thanked the members of the financial performance and accountability committee. He also acknowledged the work being done by the department and thanked staff for their support. He mentioned there were small updates to the capital construction rubric to make sure that the boundary points were correctly identified before the new capital and IT submission process.

- **HB22-1349 Technical Workgroup Update**

No update.

- **Commissioners**

Commissioner Kostenbauer began by commending the Department and Angie on an excellent Trustee Convening. She also reported that she had had a chance to meet some CU Boulder students and was invited to attend an opera gala. She noted the impact that students have in their communities. She mentioned that on March 8th, the department was hosting a meeting with the state demographer and encouraged other commissioners to attend.

Commissioner Harber began with encouraging the commission to look at the concept of how institutions of higher education, the commission and the Department are making the case for higher education. He discussed the importance of data collection integrity, including how the institutions are collecting data. Commissioner Harber also cautioned against underestimating the importance of artificial intelligence. He encouraged institutions, the Department and possibly the commission to provide some leadership in this area. He recommended a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* by Henry Kissinger and Eric Schmidt.

Commissioner Wilson acknowledged Chair Hughes and Vice Chair Scott for their testimony before the Senate Education committee. He mentioned that he gave an impromptu speech about CCHE and the strategic plan at a Rotary Club meeting. He recommended commissioners reach out within their communities to share about their work, the strategic plan, and how it will impact members of the community. Following his presentation, he was asked to write an article about CCHE and the strategic plan. Look for the article on the web under the title "What Happens to Old Legislators". Finally, he wished Ben Boggs good luck and kudos for his new position with Missouri.



Commissioner Temu-Otting reminded everyone that March 7th is COSI Day at the Capitol. She encouraged other commissioners to attend. She also mentioned that her new COSI colleague is Commissioner Gonzales and she will be joining her at the next COSI meeting on March 15th.

- **Advisors**

Senator Marchman introduced herself to the group. As a teacher and a former school board member, she understands the intricacies of the K-12 system and is excited to continue learning about the higher education community and ecosystem. She looks forward to being a voice in the Senate as a strong proponent of higher education. She highlighted a bill that aims to help adjunct professors by adding a multiplier to the hours that they've worked to better account for the actual hours that a professor works. She reported that AI is already transforming what is happening on the floor of the Senate. She agrees that the Commission should be and could be a very strong leader statewide on the issue.

D. Executive Director Report

With **Executive Director Dr. Paccione** occupied with a medical situation, **Deputy Director Dr. Ben Boggs** provided her written remarks. He thanked Chair Hughes and Commissioner Kostenbauer for their reference to the February 24th Trustee Convening. That annual gathering – specified in state statute – drew more than 60 participants representing all governing boards of the state's public institutions. The meeting reviewed fiduciary responsibilities (as required in statute) with robust discussions of major trends facing institutions and major initiatives underway at the department. Dr. Boggs noted that Dr. Paccione will be returning to her onsite campus visits in April. As those are organized, the department will extend invitations to commission members and advisors to join those visits. He also informed the participants that **Mr. Mark Cavanaugh** has agreed to join the department as Acting Chief Financial Officer on a part-time basis for several weeks. Mark is well-known across Colorado postsecondary education and his willingness to serve is warmly welcomed. In closing, Dr. Boggs noted that Dr. Paccione's remarks included kind statements about his leaving the department to accept the position of Commissioner of Higher Education for the state of Missouri. He thanked Angie in absentia for her support and encouragement as the opportunity developed, and to the commission for the shared work and experiences that equipped him for this next professional step. He also thanked his department colleagues, with special thanks to **Renee Patilla, Erin McDonnell**, and previously **Katrina Weitzel** for their sustained efforts to ensure the commission was well-prepared for its work.

E. Legislative Update

Ms. Chloe Figg reported from the Capitol, noting that the 2023 legislative session was nearing its halfway mark. The department is focused on the budget as figure-setting will occur in a week. Dr. Paccione and Ms. Figg had met with Joint Budget Committee members to underscore the commitment to affordability, COSI, and the need for additional dollars for strategic department staffing. She updated the commission on [HB 23-1114](#) that now included an amendment to charge the commission to work with the institutions to include retention and attainment metrics as part of the designation. However, she emphasized that the current overall legislative priority is the budget. She will keep the commission informed of further developments via email.



F. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Consent Items

A. Approval of Institutional Grants for the 2022-23 OER Grant Program – *Chealsye Bowley, Director of Open Education and Learning Innovation*

B. Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Programs at University of Colorado Boulder – *Sam Fogleman, Interim Director of Educator Preparation Pathways*

C. Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Programs at Relay Graduate School of Education – *Sam Fogleman, Interim Director of Educator Preparation Pathways*

D. Degree Authorization: Recommendation for the Renewal of Provisional Authorization of Arizona College of Nursing, Aurora – *Heather DeLange, Director of Private Postsecondary Education*

E. Degree Authorization: Recommendation for the Renewal of Provisional Authorization of Concorde Career College – *Heather DeLange, Director of Private Postsecondary Education*

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the consent items. Seconded by **Commissioner Abramson**, the motion passed by consent.

III. Action Items

A. Conditional Reauthorization of Select Educator Preparation Program at University of Colorado Boulder – *Sam Fogleman, Interim Director of Educator Preparation Pathways*

Commissioner Harber shared that the revised background he had received addressed the issues that were raised and that he supported the adoption of the conditional reauthorization of the University of Colorado Boulder’s School Speech Language Pathology program.

Commissioner Abramson moved to approve the consent items. Seconded by **Commissioner Wilson**, the motion passed by consent.

Meeting adjourned at 1:42 pm.

