



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Via ZOOM Teleconference
March 4, 2022**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Vanecia Kerr called the business meeting to order at 1:00pm

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

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

Advisors attending: Sen. Story, Brad Baca, Daniel Casillas, Mark Cavanaugh, Donniss Hurd, Colleen O'Neil, Dr. Melinda Piket-May

B. Minutes

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the February 4, 2022, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Wilson, the motion passed by consent.

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

Chair Report – Chair Kerr thanked everyone for participating in the Trustee Convening and those who planned it. She also expressed appreciation for the work of the standing committees. She reported participating in a Black History Month celebration at the Governor's Mansion. Chair Kerr thanked Vice Chair Hughes for all her work for the commission.

Vice Chair Report – Vice Chair Hughes thanked Finance Committee Chair Tucker and the finance team for all their work.

Commissioner Reports – Commissioner Harber encouraged commissioners to participate in campus visits whenever possible. He participated in the recent visit to CU Boulder and reported that the experience was extremely positive and enlightening.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee – Commissioner Tucker reported that the committee met on February 18th. They discussed the concept of debt relief as well as income threshold for free tuition by institution. The committee also discussed items that were approved for capital development committee recommendations.



Student Success & Workforce Alignment Committee – Commissioner Abramson reported that many of the items discussed in committee are now being brought to the full commission. Key topics include the teacher pipeline and shortage, the nursing shortage, clinical practice for nurses, and place-based approvals. Commissioner Abramson encouraged commissioners to join the committee meetings.

Advisor Reports – Faculty Advisor Piket-May asked that student success stories be brought to the forefront more often to help underscore the impact of faculty in encouraging completion.

Student Advisor Casillas agreed that highlighting student success stories would be beneficial. He thanked everyone who participated in and helped with the February 17 Student Day at the Capitol. It was very successful with almost 50 students attending.

Advisor Cavanaugh reported on HB22-1049, the bill currently under consideration regarding transcript holds. The bill involves when and how institutions will hold a student's transcript due to the student's delinquent account: tuition, room and board fines or fees. It's a situation where there is room for greater transparency and greater understanding. The bill seeks to clarify these issues and ways to better address them.

Executive Director Report – Dr. Paccione recognized the passing of Joe Blake, past CSU Chancellor and lifelong Colorado higher education advocate. She also recognized the loss of Dr. Mary Ontiveros, Vice President of Diversity at CSU. Dr. Paccione announced that Dr. Linda Lujan will be retiring as President of Lamar Community College at the end of this year. The department hosted the annual IHE Trustee Convening virtually. Attendance was close to 100 board members and trustees. She thanked Chair Kerr and Vice Chair Hughes for their presentations and participation in its planning. Dr. Paccione also thanked the Colorado Trustee Network for their dedication to responsible and informed trustees. COSI reported distributing 95% of the Back to Work program funds which was about \$6.2 million. The department's Office of Industry Partnerships Director, Beverly Jones was name advocate of the year for Company Week & Colorado Manufacturing Awards. Fort Lewis College and CU Anschutz have announced a partnership to produce more nurses in southwest Colorado. The Colorado Community College system is implementing Skill Advance Colorado – a program being developed with OEDIT. The next site visit will be at UNC with a date to be set soon. Commissioners are encouraged to participate in these visits whenever possible.

Chloe Figg reported on the status of legislation pertaining to postsecondary education. She is currently tracking House Bill 22-1255 and will report on progress at the next meeting. Department figure setting will be next week.

Public Comment – No public comment was requested.

II. Consent Items

- A. Recommendation of Approval of Cannabis-Related Academic Programs at Colorado State University-Pueblo – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*



- B. Recommendation of Approval of Amendment to Colorado State University Fort Collins Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List – *Ashlee Pate*
- C. Degree Authorization: Recommendation of the Renewal of Authorization as a Place of Business (no instruction) – University of Arizona Global Campus – *Heather DeLange*
- D. Recommendation for the Approval of Participants in the Fourth-Year Innovation Pilot Program – *Jack Wolfink*
- E. Approve Institutional Grants for the 2021-22 OER Grant Program – *Chealsye Bowley*
- ~~F. Recommendation of Approval of the Scope of Work Change to Project B HVAC Replacement Capital Renewal Project – Auraria Higher Education Center – *Ashlee Pate*~~

Commissioner Harber moved that Consent Item II. F. should be considered as an action item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Meyer and passed by consent. Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Consent Items A – E. Commissioner Meyer seconded the motion, approved by unanimous consent.

III. Action Items

- A. Recommendation of Approval of the Scope of Work Change to Project B HVAC Replacement Capital Renewal Project – Auraria Higher Education Center – *Ashlee Pate*

Ashlee Pate recommended approval to narrowing the scope of work from nine buildings down to two with a third pending per any remaining balance once AHEC receives bids. She mentioned AHEC members were available to answer any questions. The Commissioners discussed the large increase in pricing from the original request to present day. Carl Meese from AHEC stated these are cost estimates and are required to get the bid following commission approval. The Commission requested additional discussion around policy vs statute going forward as supply chain challenges, labor shortages and cost of materials continues to present inflationary pricing. AHEC agreed to pursue competitive bids on pricing. Commissioner Meyer moved to approve the scope change and Vice Chair Hughes seconded that motion which passed by unanimous consent.

IV. Discussion Items

- A. CCHE Survey Results on Meeting Agendas and Structure – *Vanecia Kerr and Sarah Hughes*

Chair Kerr led a review and discussion of the January 31, 2021, survey sent to commission members, advisors and staff by Chair Kerr and Vice Chair Hughes. The survey focused on efforts to be more intentional and efficient with CCHE meeting agendas, time, and presentations. The survey was re-sent on February 2, 2022, to help



increase survey responses. Following a fruitful discussion, consensus was reached on the following conclusions:

1. The CCHE intends to have in-person, remote, and hybrid meetings going forward to help with participation and attendance, while also seeking to re-establish and strengthen informal working relationships and communication when possible.
2. The CCHE would like to return to on-campus meetings for its annual retreat and other possible meetings. These could also include a tour of the institution.
3. The CCHE appreciates the enhanced work of the committees in addressing issues and clarifying/preparing agenda items coming before the full CCHE for action.
4. Work sessions are intentionally more casual than business sessions, and often provide background information and context on postsecondary issues that may come before the CCHE. These sessions are helpful, and optional especially as participants are traveling to in-person meetings – and they may not occur at each monthly gathering. The lunches between the work and business sessions are valuable time for members, advisors, and staff to interact and enjoy learning more about each other.
5. The pre-meeting conference call (occurring the Monday prior to the monthly CCHE meeting) has intended to provide staff with questions per agenda items that they can prepare to answer at the full CCHE meeting. However, to reduce meetings and increase participation by those unable to attend, these meetings will be cancelled with the agenda provided via Google doc, by which CCHE members are to provide their questions by noon on Mondays. The agenda book will be posted the prior Wednesday to allow more time for members to review and form their questions.
6. Staff will aid efficiency efforts by having presentation materials posted earlier. The meeting presentations will be “flipped” by which CCHE members will have reviewed the materials beforehand, and staff will only highlight main presentation points briefly. The emphasis will be on CCHE discussion.

V. Commission Initiatives

A. Strategic Plan Revision – *Sarah Hughes and Inta Morris*

Commissioner Scott provided an update and led a discussion on the status of the Strategic Plan revision. Since the last CCHE meeting, a working group has been established, and is meeting weekly. The meetings are open, and all are invited to participate as they desire.

The working group facilitated the first of many anticipated stakeholder conversations with institutional trustees at the February 23 trustee convening. Mr. Scott added that a remote learning session with a national panel was being prepared for March 17 and he hoped all CCHE members and advisors could attend. He noted that the working group was currently focused on objectives and was eager to receive feedback. At this point, the objectives focus on lifetime learning – seamless movement among K-12, postsecondary and work via a diversity of learning options; a strengthened return on investment; driving economic vitality and democracy to the state by preparing an educated and engaged citizenry; and addressing issues of equity and meeting the needs of all learners.



The discussion continued with interest in reviewing the goals of the previous strategic plans to assess if the state met those metrics. The point was well-taken with notice that ample focus is being given to what the postsecondary institutions can control, as well as areas of emphasis and needs across the entire state.

The discussion concluded with the understanding that these conversations are intentionally on-going, and the commission will receive monthly updates with time for further discussions.

VI. Information Items

A. Approved Bachelor's Degree Programs at Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Dr. Kim Poast, on behalf of Dr. Chris Rasmussen, provided information on new bachelor's degree programs at Aims Community College and Colorado Mountain College. Aims will launch a new Bachelor of Applied Science degree in public safety, its first bachelor's degree. CMC will launch two new bachelor's degree programs in human services and in ecosystems science and stewardship. Both have been approved by their respective governing boards and no action is required from CCHE.

B. Proposed Process to Revise CCHE Policy Section I, Part N (Service Areas) – *Dr. Kim Poast*

Dr. Poast provided information on a process for revising the Commission's service area policy in response to the recommendation of the HB 21-1330 task force that the Commission "include the service area policy update in its 2022 agenda, with a commitment to convene stakeholders to further address the current service area policy and make recommendations for change by July 1, 2022." The proposed process involves stakeholder meetings and consultation with institutional leadership in exploring potential changes responding to principles and themes identified by the task force. Dr. Poast indicated that a revised policy will be presented to the CCHE for discussion at its May 2022 meeting, and for adoption at its June 2022 meeting.

