



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Virtual
May 5, 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 Gonzales, Harber, Kostenbauer, Walmer, Abramson, Meyer, Temu Otting, Tucker, and Wilson.

Advisors attending: Mark Cavanaugh, Federico Chavez, Dr. Colleen O’Neil, Dr. Melinda Piket-May, Dr. Landon Pirius, Steve Schwartz

B. Approval of the Minutes for the April 7, 2023 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the April 7th minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Gonzales, the motion passed by consent.

C. Reports

• **Chair**

Chair Hughes acknowledged that the commission has gotten much more efficient and effective in managing committee time and discussion time. Per Dr. Paccione’s suggestion, we are looking at expanding the work session time to allow for more discussion. And as the Commission returns to in-person meetings, we’d like to allow more time for conversation so will explore starting the business meeting later. The next meeting will be another offsite meeting at a location that is convenient for the learners who will participate in the work session. Chair Hughes asked that commissioners share location suggestions with her and Commissioner Gonzales.

• **Vice-Chair**

Vice Chair Scott shared that the Denver City Council would be voting on May 15th on an ordinance to expand access to the Denver College Affordability Fund which has historically been available only to learners 25 and under. They are voting to increase the age to 30 and expand access based on geography to include Denver Public School grads who have been displaced out of Denver. They are also considering expanding the types of programs that are eligible to support students to include additional programs that are non-traditional pathways but have proven high quality outcomes. Chair Hughes added that this aligns with our strategic plan.



- **Commission Standing Committees**

- **Student Success & Workforce Alignment**

Commissioner Abramson reported that the committee continued conversations looking at relevant issues coming out of the strategic plan. They are examining stackable credentials, on ramps and off ramps, transfer services, and the post-secondary success report. They are looking at potentially creating an ad hoc committee that would really dig into the issue of transfer credits and how that may intersect with the issue of on ramps and off ramps later in their careers once they have initially left post-secondary. The Department is expecting an equity report on transfer in June. The committee will review the report and share it with the full commission. Finally, he suggested that the commission may want to consider including transfer credits and stackable credentials on the agenda for the retreat.

- **Finance, Performance & Accountability**

Commissioner Tucker reported that this committee did not meet in April but are expecting a more expansive agenda when they meet in May.

- **HB22-1349 Technical Workgroup Update**

Vice Chair Scott reported that they may have identified a consulting partner to work with. It isn't finalized and Michael Vente and team are going to spend time with them next week and decide how to move forward. He also reported that this work will be paid for by some for-profit partners. The committee is excited to really dive into the work.

- **Commissioners**

- **Commissioner Kostenbauer** reported that she, Commissioner Gonzales, Commissioner Temu-Otting and Executive Director Paccione recently visited the CSU Fort Collins campus. They had a tour of the diversity offices and met with President Parsons and some of her vice presidents. She said that they learned a lot about what CSU is doing for their students and how they are really focusing on closing the gap. She also shared the [CSU Career Competencies](#) which they are using to help develop career readiness skills for all students. They had some really good discussions about some of the things that the campus is facing. She reported that Executive Director Paccione did a great job of explaining all of the resources and programs available through the department to help address the issues they are facing on campus.

- **Commissioner Gonzales** also mentioned the visit to CSU. She added that she has two learners who have gone through the system. The question she had walking onto the campus was what do their outcomes look like for learners who are minorities or underestimated learners in our community. She was pleased to see that some of the programs to support these students are working incredibly but she would like to see them supporting more students. She highlighted the programs where the industry is reaching into campus and the university is reaching back into industry to create a seamless flow which benefits both learners and industry.

- **Commissioner Temu-Otting** reported that she was very impressed by the innovation that the Career Center at CSU is taking on when it comes to undocumented students. She shared that we are seeing a whole generation of students that do not have work authorization and we have to become more



innovative to ensure that people have the opportunities to gain education and come into the work force. She highlighted career centers and mentorship as programs that can support this segment of our students to provide wrap-around services.

- **Commissioner Wilson** shared that he attended the sportsman day at the Capitol which he was active in getting started and that he was asked to do the morning prayer in the House. He reported that he spent quite a bit of time on the House and Senate floor visiting with representatives and talking about the work of the commission.
 - **Commissioner Harber** raised the question of distribution requirements. He believes that we should take a look at the concept of distribution requirements as employers have shared that they are very unenthusiastic about paying for courses that they feel have no value. He also suggested that after learning more about programs like Guild Education and learning that there is little participation in Colorado that perhaps the Commission could help raise awareness.
 - **Commissioner Walmer** reported that they had their latest CFAC meeting at the stackable credentials faculty to faculty meeting and that she is going to serve another two years with the commission.
- **Advisors**
No Advisor Reports

D. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Paccione shared that the department is in the midst of 11 searches including four senior staff positions. There are some great candidates and the department has extended an offer to a CFO candidate. She shared results from the industry partnerships survey. The goal is that 100 percent of all degree programs in the state will have an early workforce learning experience. She expressed excitement that we are up to 72 percent, up from 68 percent. She also shared that David Tanberg, formerly of SHEEO, was announced as the new president at Adams State University.

Dr. Paccione mentioned that the community college system and CSU Fort Collins will be signing a memorandum of understanding for the civil engineering pathway. The CCCS also recently signed an MOU with two HBCUs so students of color can attend a Colorado community college and transfer credits directly to an HBCU. She shared her excitement about the opportunities that are being created to help students succeed and earn their degree or credential.

And finally, she reported that the University of Colorado Boulder expanded their CU Promise program which will impact about 3,500 more students. Many institutions have promise programs which set the threshold of income at which if you earn below that threshold, you can attend tuition free.

Director Paccione also acknowledged that it was Dr. Roberto Montoya's last day and wished him luck as he transitions to a role at Inside Track, supporting institutions at a



national level. Chair Hughes thanked Roberto on behalf of the Commission for his work in elevating equity work. Chair Hughes and Director Paccione also announced that this was the last meeting for the Commission's student advisor, Federico Chavez. They thanked him for his service and wished him continued success at the Colorado School of Mines.

E. Legislative Update

Director Paccione reported on the status of the following bills (many have passed both House and Senate but have not yet been signed by the Governor):

- SB 23-149 which provides students (sophomores and higher) financial assistance if they serve as mentors for high school students. The bill passed on May 3rd.
- HB 23-1262, the Colorado Reengage Initiative that allows four-year institutions to offer an associate's degree also passed on May 1, after some adjustments.
- The removal of the requirement to select the box for selective service also passed on May 1st.
- HB 23-1246, the Zero Cost Credential program, modeled off of Care Forward Colorado, passed on 4/29.
- The Universal High School Scholarship program, a one-time \$25 million program, passed on 5/3.

Additionally, she reported that all state employees will receive a 5% pay increase in the next fiscal year.

F. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Consent Items

A. Degree Authorization – Renewal of Authorization of Embry Riddle Aeronautical University –
Heather DeLange, Director Office of Private Postsecondary Education

B. Degree Authorization –Renewal of Authorization of Colorado School of Traditional Chinese Medicine –
Heather DeLange, Director Office of Private Postsecondary Education

C. Degree Authorization –Renewal of Authorization of ECPI University as a Place of Business –
Heather DeLange, Director Office of Private Postsecondary Education

D. Approval of Two-Year Cash-Funded Capital List – Colorado School of Mines, EMRF Infrastructure –
Kennedy Evans, Lead Finance Analyst

E. Approval of Two-Year Cash-Funded Capital List – Colorado School of Mines, Mines Park 2023 –
Kennedy Evans, Lead Finance Analyst

F. Approval of Two-Year Cash-Funded Capital List – Auraria Higher Education Center -
Kennedy Evans, Lead Finance Analyst

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



III. Action Items
No Action Items

IV. Discussion Items

A. Presentation: Postsecondary Access and Success for Colorado’s High School Graduates 2023 Report – *Carl Einhaus, Senior Director for Student Success & P20 Alignment*

Carl presented on key findings from the updated Postsecondary Success report – including a continued decrease in college going rates (49.9% for class of 2021 – slight decrease from year previous which had an over 5% decline likely mostly due to the pandemic). Also discussed was the increase in out-of-state college going – the most significant increase ever since data was collected (29%). Questions on how we can keep students in-state were addressed. Carl will continue working with the Admission Council to discuss ways on how the Commission and the Department can assist.

B. CCHE Chair/Vice Chair Election Update

Dr. Paccione reported that based on the nominations received that we do not need to hold a vote. She thanked Chair Hughes and Vice Chair Scott for their interest in serving another term as chair and vice chair.

Chair Hughes added that she will be reaching out to committee chairs regarding their interest in continuing to serve and in the next year, we will look to grow capacity and plan for transition. She asked that members of the commission reach out to her regarding interest in committees.

Chair Harber suggested that a vote would still be appropriate if we are appointing a chair and vice chair. He moved to approve the appointment. Seconded by **Commissioner Gonzales**, the motion passed by consent.

C. Legislative Review

Covered in Legislative Update.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

