



Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Virtual
June 6, 2024

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Walmer called the business meeting to order at 1:02 pm.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Walmer, Vice Chair Gonzales, Commissioners Abramson, Harber, Hughes, Kostenbauer, Meyer, Temu-Otting, Tucker, Executive Director Paccione

Advisors attending: Senator Zenzinger, Mark Cavanaugh, Danielle Ongart, Jamie Viefhaus-Zak, Dr. Melinda Picket-May, Leilani Domingo, Dr. Michael Lightner

B. Approval of the Minutes for the May 3, 2024 Commission Meeting

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the May 3rd minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Kostenbauer. The motion was approved.

C. Reports

1. Chair - Chair Walmer acknowledged that this is Commissioner Meyer's last CCHE meeting, and she read a Resolution of Tribute to his service. She thanked Commissioner Meyer for his work while serving on the Commission. Chair Walmer then gave other commissioners an opportunity to address Commissioner Meyer. Commissioners Harber, Tucker, Hughes, Kostenbauer and Executive Director Paccione all took a minute to thank Commissioner Meyer for his work on the Commission and wish him well in the future. Chair Walmer also acknowledged that Dr. Kim Poast is leaving and this her last CCHE meeting as well. She thanked Dr. Poast for her wonderful work with the department and the Commission.



Finally, Chair Walmer reminded everyone of the retreat in July at Western Colorado University and invited Commissioners to send any topic ideas for the retreat to her and Vice Chair Gonzales.

2. Vice Chair – Vice Chair Gonzales started by thanking her fellow commissioners for the opportunity and honor to serve as the Vice Chair of CCHE. She went on to mention that she and Chair Walmer have had discussions to identify two to three priorities from the strategic plan to align with the Commissions sphere of influence to advance over the coming year.
 - ROI (Return on Investment)
 - Affordability
 - Access Equity

Vice Chair Gonzales also shared that she is excited to work closely with the department and IHEs to ensure that we are all advancing in the same direction. Vice Chair Gonzales mentioned that she participated in the National Youth Apprenticeship Week, hosted by Career Wise Colorado. The event highlighted the value of registered apprenticeship programs, opportunities for youth ages 16 to 24 in Colorado.

Along with Chair Walmer, Vice Chair Gonzales also participated in the Colorado Workforce Convening with Senator Hickenlooper and Senator Bennett. This event was hosted by the Colorado Equitable Economic Mobility Initiative. She added that one notable theme from these discussions was the critical need for learners to also have access to navigation and guidance along their educational cradle to career journey.

Vice Chair Gonzales took a moment to express her pride, encouragement, and support for the work that COSI (Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative) does. She serves on the advisory board for COSI, and they convened on May 15th. Lastly, Vice Chair Gonzales mentioned that she is currently in Washington, DC for the national Strive Together policy convening. She had an opportunity to meet with Senator Hickenlooper and staff from Senator Bennett’s office and is happy to report that their priorities are aligned with those of this Commission.

3. Commission Standing Committee
 - a. Student Success & Workforce Alignment – Commissioner Abramson reported that this committee met but did not have a quorum so there are several items for today’s meeting that are listed as consent items but will need to be actions items so there is some discussion before voting to approve the items. This committee is also focused on making sure their work aligns with the strategic plan. They plan to dig into the



work done on the 1215 Bill and the Transfer Bill. This committee will be on hold and will reconvene after the CCHE Retreat.

- b. Finance, Performance & Accountability - Commissioner Tucker reported that this committee met on May 17th. The committee reviewed and approved the financial aid allocations. These are on the consent agenda today. Commissioner Tucker also shared that this committee spent some time providing some parameters to the finance team regarding what they are looking for from previous budgets to get a better understanding of how the budget cycle works from what the executive cycle produces and what emerges at the end. This committee also had an opportunity to listen to presentations on HB 24-1340 and HB 24-1403 and gain insights on them. He mentioned that a lot of those insights were presented during the work session this morning. Finally, Commissioner Tucker shared that they had a chance to hear some of the capital review process recommendations from the team and those will be moving forward to the CFOs.
- c. HB22-1349 Technical Workgroup Update – Dr. Sophia Laderman read an update from Michael Vente; he had a conflicting meeting today. Dr. Laderman shared that the work related to 1349 continues, especially the work of calculating Colorado’s minimum value threshold. This committee plans to meet again on June 20th, and the CDHE staff will update this group on the details of calculating the threshold and provide responses to technical questions from folks at the IHEs. The CDHE staff will also update this group on proposed timelines for this work. They also want to discuss this more at the CCHE Retreat in July. The report went on to mention that the staff is also working to validate and bring together the various data elements that are needed to calculate the threshold. They have been doing outreach to IR and CFO representatives from the IHEs and that will continue through the summer. Commissioner Hughes thanked Dr. Laderman for the update and added that she, Emily House, and Josh Scott (no longer with CCHE) are all thrilled that the staff has been working on a timeline to present. They are eager to see the implications of the all the conversations and to see some initial data and details.
- d. Transfer Ad Hoc Subcommittee- Commissioner Abramson – This Committee is on hiatus until after the legislative session.

4. Commissioners.

- a. **Commissioner Temu-Otting – COSI Update** Commissioner Temu-Otting shared that the most recent COSI meeting was mostly focused on funding scenarios, funding formulas and forecasts of funding amounts. They also



had a vote for the Second Chance Scholarship and some program updates. At the July Board meeting, they plan to review a presentation of what came out of all the Listening Sessions hosted.

- b. Cynthia added to Commissioner Temu-Otting's report that the COSI program review and redesign is ongoing, they are in phase 2. This phase is all about allocations and the last step in this phase will happen during the COSI Symposium where they will solicit additional feedback. The COSI board plans to vote on this at the July meeting.
- c. **Commissioner Hughes** shared that there are many accolades in the chat for Dr. Poast. She also acknowledged the amazing work Dr. Poast has done over the years for the students of Colorado. Commissioner Hughes thanked Dr. Poast for her passion, commitment, leadership, and integrity evident in her work for education across Colorado.
- d. **Commissioner Kostenbauer** shared that she attended the CTM meeting last week. She believes that some of the trends in Higher Education are profound. She suggested that the Commission meet with the IHEs to discuss and share these trends. She said that with these trends and in this time the institutions may be asked to do more with less.

5. Advisors

- (i) **Advisor Lightner** shared a 1-pager with the Commission that included links to news articles and books related to Higher Ed that he thinks may interest this group. He asked for their feedback and if they value this information, he will continue to provide it at the CCHS monthly meetings.
- (ii) **Advisor Domingo** shared that she has recently been elected Student Body President at Colorado Mesa University. She also shared that she intends to discuss the agenda with her peers so when she attends the meeting, she can bring feedback that has a broader perspective. Advisor Domingo invited the Commission back to the CMU (Colorado Mesa University) Campus for a meeting.

D. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Paccione – Executive Director Paccione began by thanking Commissioner Meyer for his work with the Commission and wishing him well in the future. She then went on to say that we had a successful legislative session for Higher Education. Executive Director Paccione expressed her appreciation for Senator Zenzinger, the JBC (Joint Budget Committee), and their value for higher education.



Executive Director Paccione also mentioned the 1340 Bill and how it could be interesting to see some data on who takes advantage of this opportunity. Many are happy to provide an affordability measure that is geared towards middle income families.

The department is searching for a replacement for Dr. Kim Poast. The posting for that position closes on June 16th.

Dr. Paccione shared that she is looking forward to the retreat in Gunnison next month and seeing everyone in person. She also plans to attend the SHEEO Executive Meeting in Washington DC in July and is looking forward to that too. Finally, she thanked Senator Zenzinger for her work as a Colorado Legislature and a member of the JBC and as an advocate for the students of Colorado.

E. Public Comment – No public comment

II. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Dual Enrollment Authorization for Baylor University – *Heather DeLange, Director Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
- B. Approval of Provisional Authorization for Vermont College of Fine Arts – *Heather DeLange, Director Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
- C. Approval of Authorization Renewal for Religious Training Institutions – *Heather DeLange, Director Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
- D. Approval of Stackable Credential Pathways Required by SB22-192 – *Dr. Ruthanne Orihuela, Director of Credential Pathways and Prior Learning Initiatives*
- E. Approval of Revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part L: Statewide Transfer and gtPathways Policy – *Christina Carrillo, Academic Policy Officer & Advocate*
- F. Approval of Annual COF Eligibility and Student FTE for Extended Studies Programs for FY25 – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen, Senior Director of Academic Pathways and Innovation*
- G. Approval of FY 24- 25 Institutional Financial Aid Allocations – *Corey Evans, Budget Director & DeAnna Castaneda, Lead Finance Analyst*

Commissioner Abramson made a motion to move the consent items A-F to Action Items on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harber. This motion was approved. Consent Items A-F were moved to Action Items.



Commissioner Harber moved to approve the consent item G. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tucker. The motion was approved.

III. Action Items –

- A. Approval of Dual Enrollment Authorization for Baylor University – *Heather DeLange, Director Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
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Commissioner Abramson made a motion to approve and open discussion on Action items A-F. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harber. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Tucker made a motion that MSU Denver be granted \$15 million in cash spending authority that was originally approved for FY25-26 to FY24-25. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes. This motion was approved.

Crystal Collins, CFO began the discussion by letting the Commission know that this involves the building of a health institute tower. She explained that this project was brought to the Commission for approval as part of the 24-25 capital projects list. MSU has done fund raising for this project and recently met their goal of \$15 million. Unfortunately, the spending authority was inappropriately identified for FY25-26 instead of FY24-25. Today they are seeking approval to start using those funds for FY24-25. The group discussed this with Jim Carpenter, the CFO for MSU. With all questions answered and no objections to the motion it was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 pm.

