



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Virtual
April 7, 2023**

BUSINESS MEETING

Chair Sarah Hughes called the business meeting to order at 1:01 pm.

I. Opening Business

A. Attendance

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

Advisors attending: Senator Janise Marchman, Mark Cavanaugh, Federico Chavez, Donnis Hurd, Dr. Colleen O'Neil, Dr. Melinda Picket-May, Dr. Landon Pirus, Steve Schwartz

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

Commissioner Harber moved to approve the March 3rd minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the motion passed by consent.

C. Reports

• **Chair**

Chair Hughes shared that she attended the CMC Board Retreat, representing both CCHE and CTN. She presented the Association of Governing Boards' (AGB's) John W. Mason Award for board leadership to the Mesa Board of Trustees on behalf of AGB. She complimented CMC's board on the award and their work. Chair Hughes also said that she had participated in a recent panel discussion on attainment with the Lumina Foundation board where she highlighted the work being done in Colorado. She noted that Stephanie Markham from Gallup had also participated in the panel and had offered to present her work to the Commission. Chair Hughes suggested that Commission members would benefit from hearing about her research on learner voices and how learners make decisions. Chair Hughes congratulated commissioners Gonzales and Walmer for their official appointment by the Senate and thanked them for their commitment.

• **Vice-Chair**

Vice Chair Scott excused.



- **Commission Standing Committees**
 - **Student Success & Workforce Alignment**
Commissioner Abramson shared that the committee had discussed upcoming legislation that will help to consolidate the education preparation approval process and clarify roles between the Colorado Department of Education and CDHE. He also noted that Colorado Mountain College (CMC), which is required to notify the Commission when they add a bachelor's program, will be adding a bachelor of applied science in integrated media degree.
 - **Finance, Performance & Accountability (FPA)**
Commissioner Tucker reported that the FPA committee has a few items on the consent agenda related to cash funding and emergency supplementals. He complimented Kennedy Evans for her presentation on the capital and IT capital process and the Commission's role in the process.
 - **HB22-1349 Technical Workgroup Update**
No update
- **Commissioners**
 - Commissioner Kostenbauer reported that she had attended an MBA student networking meeting at MSU Denver and that she was very encouraged by the enthusiasm shown by the students and the faculty and staff.
 - Commissioner Harber reported that he had participated in a number of recent conversations with peers in the media and was disappointed at the general level and degree of negativity about the value of higher education. He suggested the Commission should consider how to address that negativity.
 - Commissioner Temu Otting provided updates on the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI). In addition to additional funding for the matching student scholarships and the Finish What You Started program, she was most excited about COSI approving three Second Chance Scholarships, which are for committed youth.
- **Advisors**
 - Advisor Piket-May relayed conversations she had recently with faculty who do outreach to K-12 that reinforced her concern about women and girls having equal access to opportunity. She also expressed her concerns about violence in educational settings and the effect it is having on discourse. She acknowledged and thanked Commissioner Abramson for his work on this issue. Commissioner Abramson spoke briefly about his work on school safety and invited commissioners to get involved.
 - Advisor Cavanaugh spoke about the simplified FAFSA and suggested commissioners pay attention to what the Department of Education is doing.
 - Advisor Pirius noted that the Colorado Community College System had held a signing ceremony a few days ago for a partnership between CCCS and two



historically black colleges and universities, St. Augustine's and Texas Southern. Executive Director Paccione agreed that it was an exciting event and that the partnership offers opportunities for African Americans.

D. Executive Director Report

- Executive Director Paccione congratulated Commissioners Gonzales and Walmer on their appointment. She noted that the department's outreach team had convened the first FAFSA and CAFSA state stakeholder group to talk about how to disseminate information and train key players. She noted that COSI had held a COSI day at the Capitol on March 7, 2023 with over 80 students and grantees, the largest such event. She noted that COSI had been funded at \$7 million per year; the current request in the long bill includes an additional \$3 million, which would mean \$20 million with the matching funds. She referenced the earlier comments about COSI awards and noted the funding is going to 46 counties and 13 institutions of higher education, funding about 3,000 students. She also noted COSI's Fund my Future pilot program.
- Dr. Paccione reminded commissioners that May 1 is Decision Day and said the department would provide more information. She said that on May 10 the department would hold its annual honor roll celebration recognizing outstanding teacher candidates from educator preparation programs. And she noted a recent keynote address at the Colorado School of Mines for their celebration of equity, diversity, and inclusion.
- Finally, Dr. Paccione provided updates on staffing at the department, noting that in addition to bringing in Mark Cavanaugh as interim CFO, Ms. Inta Morris had returned as interim deputy director.
- Dr. Paccione concluded by recognizing Federico Chavez, who has been the student advisor and who will be leaving. She thanked him for his service to the commission.

E. Legislative Update

- Dr. Paccione provided an update on HB 23-1001, which expands assistance for educator programs; SB 23-149, which provides support for mentoring high school students; HB 23-1262, the so-called Colorado Re-Engaged bill, which would allow four-year institutions to provide two-year degree associate's degrees to those who have earned the degree but stopped out; HB 23-1261, another of the department's bills; and two bills that had been endorsed by the governor, HB 23-1246 regarding zero-cost credentials and the bill pertaining to the universal high school scholarship program.
- Interim CFO Cavanaugh provided a short update on the long bill. Dr. Paccione added that the long bill includes an almost 12 percent increase for institutions of



higher education and allows for tuition increases of up to 5 percent and totaling an increase for higher education.

F. Public Comment

No public comment.

II. Consent Items

A. Approval of Initial Educator Preparation Programs at Colorado School of Mines—*Sam Fogleman, Interim Director of Educator Preparation Pathways*

B. Approval of Initial Educator Preparation Programs at Emporia State University (KS)—*Sam Fogleman, Interim Director of Educator Preparation Pathways*

C. Approval of Two-Year Cash Funded Capital List – Community College of Aurora—*Kennedy Evans, Lead Finance Analyst*

D. Approval of Emergency Supplemental Request – Colorado Mesa University, Moss Performing Arts—*Kennedy Evans, Lead Finance Analyst*

E. Approval of Emergency Supplemental Request – University of Northern Colorado, Gray Hall Mechanical Project—*Kennedy Evans, Lead Finance Analyst*

F. Degree Authorization –Renewal of Authorization -Liberty University – *Heather DeLange, Director Office of Private Postsecondary Education*

Prior to acting on the consent items, Commissioner Hughes requested that Consent Item D be separated so that a member could recuse themselves. Commissioner Harber moved to approve Consent Items A,B,C, E and F. Commissioner Walmer seconded, and the motion passed.

Commissioner Abramson moved to approve Consent Item D. Seconded by Commissioner Kostenbauer, the motion was approved. Commissioner Meyer recused himself from this vote.

III. Action Items

A. Approval of Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part F: Transfer Admission Standards Policy – *Carl Einhaus, Senior Director of Student Success & P20 Alignment,* and *Kim Poast, Chief Student Success & Academic Affairs Officer*

Dr. Kim Poast was joined by Erika Pepmeyer, Director of Admissions at the University of Northern Colorado and member of the Colorado Statewide Admissions Council. The recommended changes to this policy came at the recommendation of the Admissions Council to more clearly align with the experiences of transfer students, and in particular adult students. Specifically, the policy updates eliminating the requirement to consider transfer grade point average and credit hour considerations, and eliminates the developmental education language. The updates will emphasize a wholistic approach to admissions for transfer students.

Commissioners had an engaging discussion about the flexibility of the transfer process, transparency of credit transfer and the flexibility of Commission policy. At the



recommendation of Commissioners, staff will continue to work towards ensuring that student facing policies are updated to ensure maximum flexibility and transparency of process for students. This includes transfer of credits and admissions processes.

Commissioner Gonzales moved to approve Action Item III A. Seconded by **Commissioner Harber**, the motion passed by consent.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 pm.

