Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting

Virtual

**September 5, 2024**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

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

1. **Opening Business**
2. Attendance

Commissioners attending: Chair Walmer, Vice Chair Gonzales, Commissioners Abramson, Barkin, Harber, Tucker, Walker Harvey, Executive Director Paccione

Advisors attending: Senator Zenzinger, Mark Cavanaugh, Dr. Michael Lightner, Mark Superka, Leilani Domingo, Jamie Viefhaus-Zak

1. Approval of the Minutes for the July 26, 2024Commission Meeting

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve the July 26th minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Harber. The motion was approved.

1. Reports
   1. Chair - Chair Walmer reminded the commission of a discussion during the retreat regarding a resolution and opposition to Amendment 50 and 108. She added that there was a Special Session, and a bill was signed that removed these amendments from the ballad. There will certainly be a decrease in the budget for Higher Education in the coming year. Chair Walmer went on to inform the commission, she attended the SBOE meeting last week, and they discussed the ICAP Program. ICAP stands for Individual Career Academic Plans, and they are required at our Colorado high schools. The rules for this program were last updated in 2018. New rules for this program and been presented to the SBOE and they will consider adopting these new rules at their October meeting. Chair Walmer asked Renee to send the SBOE presentation to the commissioners via email. She also mentioned the graduation guidelines, another intersection for K12 and Higher Ed. She spoke particularly about standardized testing. Although our institutions have tried to move away from requiring the SAT for enrollment, it is still a part of some of our statewide development education policy. There is a consideration of going to the digital form of the SAT test. Advisor Ongart wanted the commission to be updated about these changes believes it will be an interesting conversation for a SSWA Committee meeting. It may also be interesting for the SSWA Committee to have conversation about “cut scores” after the SBOE makes their decision about this in September.

Chair Walmer also shared that she is interested in some partnership conversations with CCHE and CTN about the formula review.

Lastly, Chair Walmer mentioned that she attended an event celebrating the end of the RISE program which is the Response and Innovation and Student Equity Fund. She shared that there were plenty of displays that highlighted how those dollars were used to fund innovative projects and partnerships across Colorado school districts and IHEs.

Senator Zenzinger chimed in to thank the members of the Commission and the governing boards and the institutions for coming to the table and really advocating for the students and for elevating these issues at the CCHE retreat, It really had a positive impact.

* 1. Vice Chair – Vice Chair Gonzales
  2. Commission Standing Committee
     1. Student Success & Workforce Alignment – Commissioner Abramson reported that this committee reflected on the discussions at the CCHE retreat and talked about what their focus will be in light of those conversations. He also reported that this committee agreed to work on a graphic map of all the many types of post-secondary education pathways, amplify the CCHE Strategic Plan and continue the conversation about post-secondary education broadly across the state. He also shared that they did have quorum and were able to move a few items to the consent agenda.
     2. Finance, Performance & Accountability - Commissioner Tucker reported that this committee met and had a robust discussion about HB 190797. He shared that this item is on the consent agenda, however, they plan to continue the conversation.

Commissioner Tucker shared that this committee spent a lot of time discussing the after appeals for capital scoring and IT scoring. He mentioned this process is working well. While this is working well, they plan to go through the rubric review so it can be approved. This group also discussed affordability briefly. Commissioner Tucker informed the Commission that this committee has a few consent items on the agenda and an action item.

* + 1. HB22-1349 Technical Workgroup Update –

Michael Vente with the Department shared a summary of the conversations that CCHE had during its working session related to the calculation of the Colorado Minimum Value Threshold (MTV) aligned to the goals of the Strategic Plan and implementation of HB22-1349. Mr. Vente discussed the output of the model based on CDHE’s work in using a variety of datasets as well as the feedback received from institutions after seeing their own institutional model output data. Mr. Vente said that conversations on how best to use these data would continue at the October CCHE meeting.

* + 1. Transfer Ad Hoc Subcommittee- Commissioner Abramson –
  1. Commissioners.

**Commissioner**

* 1. Advisors

**Advisor** Lightner informed the Commission that the CU Board of Regents are having an AI learning session during their next Board meeting. He also mentioned a Keynote on AI that will be given by Bill Quinn on Friday, September 13th at 830am. This talk will be live streamed, and he will make the Commission gets the link for it.

1. **Executive Director Report**

**Executive Director Paccione – Executive Director Paccione** began by thanking the team at Emily Griffin for hosting the CCHE meeting. She went on to welcome new Commissioner, Cass Harvey Walker.

Executive Director Paccione informed the Commission that she and some of her senior staff attended a few back to campus activities last week.

She reported that there has been an increase in enrollment across the state.

Executive Director Paccione also reported that she and few staff members did a site visit at the Adams County Workforce Center recently and she has a few more of those planned in the coming weeks.

She went on to report that the department is working on finalizing the legislative agenda and working with Gov’s office on that and the state budget. She went thank Senator Zenzinger for her continued support of our students and IHEs. She also reiterated that after Amendments 50 and 108 being taken off the ballad, that we still have a pretty dire budget situation ahead.

Executive Director Paccione shared that the Gov’s Cabinet met at CSU Pueblo most recently and she thanked the leadership there for hosting that meeting.

Finally, Dr. Paccione mentioned the Equity Day of Action that Dr. G is putting together. It will be a wonderful event and is being hosted CSU Fort Collins on Friday, October 18th. She encouraged the Commission to attend that event if they can manage it on their calendars. She also invited Commissioners to attend scheduled site visits if their schedules allow.

1. **Public Comment –** No public comment
2. **Consent Items** (*5 minutes)*
3. Degree Authorization – Renewal of Authorization for Religious Training Institutions – *Heather DeLange, Director of Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
4. Degree Authorization – Renewal of Authorization for Rocky Vista University – *Heather DeLange, Director of Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
5. Degree Authorization – Renewal of Authorization for Columbia College – *Heather DeLange, Director of Office of Private Postsecondary Education*
6. SB19-097 Capital Grant Request Approval – *Corey Evans, Budget Director*
7. Approval of Two-Year Cash-Funded Capital List for Western Colorado University  *– Kennedy Evans, Budget & Finance Analyst*
8. Approval of Supplemental Request for Arapaho Community College *– Kennedy Evans, Budget & Finance Analyst*

Commissioner Tucker motioned to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Harber second the motion. The consent agenda was approved with no opposition.

1. **Action Items** *(10 minutes)*
   1. Approval of Fiscal Year 2025-26 State-Funded Capital Projects and Priority Lists – *Kennedy Evans, Budget & Policy Analyst*

Commissioner Harber motioned to approve action item A and Vice Chair Gonzales second the motion. The action item was approved with no opposition.

1. **Discussion Items** *(20 minutes)*
   1. Funding Formula Review Stakeholder Process Discussion – *Crystal L. Collins, Chief Financial Officer*

Crystal presented an update on the funding formula review process. She informed the Commission that since the discussion at the CCHE retreat, she has received some feedback from the Gov’s office. The Governor would like the Commission to begin their review earlier than what is in Statute. This will allow the review to accommodate a new deliverable deadline of November 1, 2025. The Governor would like to shepherd this through the legislative process before his term ends in 2026. Crystal then presented a draft timeline for the funding formula review based on the feedback from the Gov’s office. Crystal reviewed the timeline with the Commission and suggested a working group chaired by a commissioner as it is a Commission’s review. The department would provide support to that process. The Commission agreed to the new timeline and the working group. They also decided that there will be a special FPA meeting called to discuss who should be included in the working group. Commissioner Tucker and Crystal will work to find a time for the special FPA meeting and send an invite out.

Commissioner Tucker motioned to move this discussion item to an action item on the agenda. Commissioner Barkin, second the motion and it was approved with no opposition.

Commissioner Tucker them motioned that the Commission move the start of the funding formula review to September 2024. Commissioner Harber second the motion and it was approved with no opposition.