

Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Old Supreme Court Chambers, Colorado State Capitol, Denver
April 11, 2014

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

Chairman Dick Kaufman, Commissioners Luis Colon, Jeanette Garcia, Happy Haynes, James Polsfut and BJ Scott attended. Vice Chair Patty Pacey, Commissioners John Anderson and Hereford Percy attended via conference call. Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Senators Nancy Todd, Representatives Lois Court and LeRoy Garcia, Wayne Artis, Dr. Keith Owen, Mark Superka, and Melissa Wagner. CCHE Advisor Dr. Toni Larson attended via conference call.

Commissioner Garcia moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2014 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Polsfut and passed unanimously.

CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Chairman Kaufman introduced Dr. Gregory Salsbury, the new President at Western State Colorado College to the Commissioners. He also thanked Speaker Ferrandino, Representative Holbrook, Representative Cord and the House for their work on HB14-1319. He also thanked staff for the work they did. The Chair also mentioned that the annual election of officers occur in May. He publically announced the CCHE's intent to amend the CCHE By-Laws at the May meeting to increase the one year term limit for officers.

Commissioner Percy said he participated in an education panel with Senator Andy Kerr. Audience participation was high and there was an opportunity, though a Q & A, to get higher education's message out.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Chief Operating Officer, Jennifer Sobanet, gave Lt. Governor's Executive Director's report in his stead. She reminded the Commissioners about the upcoming Higher Education Policy and Leadership Summit on May 1st with the public institution CEOs and Governing Boards.

Ms. Sobanet reported that the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative will be introduced into legislation the week of April 14th.

She reported that on Wednesday, April 16th, there will be a state summit for school guidance counselors to ensure they can advise students of all the post-secondary guaranteed pathways available to them, as well as making sure they are familiar with the completion agenda CCHE has led. Thursday, April 17th is the Statewide SAI conference and Friday, April 18th is the 3rd Faculty-to-Faculty State Summit.

Ms. Sobanet also thanked the CCHE Capital Construction Subcommittee for their hard work. She also informed the Commission that the PERA presentation, planned for this spring, will not occur until the fall, due to conflicting schedules.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Higher Education Governance – David Longanecker, President of WICHE and George Pernsteiner, President of SHEEO gave a presentation on governance for state higher education boards and commissions. Mr. Longanecker started with a history of the CCHE. CCHE came about in 1965 as a planning entity, not a regulatory entity. HB1137 changed the Commission to a strong coordinating board in 1985. In 1993 there was a change in leadership reporting authority, and by 2003 every institution had its own governing board and COF was introduced in 2004. CCHE currently has substantial responsibilities and powers; strategic planning, budget and finance control, academic oversight and program review. The ultimate power lies with the Legislature.

Mr. Longanecker's perspective on CCHE's role in coordinating Colorado higher education includes; establishing the public agenda, having a buffering role as a solo performer and as a team player, having the Governor and the legislature trust and value CCHE's advice and having the institutions of higher education respect the work and accept the Commission's value.

Mr. Longanecker suggested the Commission exercise their role by leading in the development of Colorado's unique interests and needs and placing those in a national and international context, and having a strong master plan. He noted that although Colorado is above average in wealth, it is well below average in support for public works. He also noted that Colorado still has to improve the state's attainment gap and graduation rates. He believes the challenges facing Colorado are substantial for the two-year and four-year institutions.

Mr. Pernsteiner outlined nine key levels for coordinating boards:

1. Agenda Setting and Planning – CCHE has authority to set the terms of discussions regarding the goals for the state.
2. Budget Presentation and Allocation – CCHE frames issues and creates and executes developing formulas.
3. Data Definition, Collection, and Reporting – CCHE can set the metrics to determine whether progress is made, which is necessary in convincing others to help move the higher education agenda forward.
4. Allocation of Student Financial Aid – CCHE has the authority, through the Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF), to allocate and oversee state need-based financial aid. This power is a lever to help achieve student success through more affordability.
5. Capital Planning and Budgeting – CCHE has the authority to help prioritize the capital budget for construction and technology that allow the state to make investments in achieving student success (most coordinating boards do not have this authority).
6. Mission and Program Review – The original regulatory reason coordinating boards were created. The importance of the coordination of approval for admissions and programs and the assurance of quality is increasing as an important dimension of regulatory

function. Currently, the triad of federal government, accreditors and state regulatory agencies has been tasked with ensuring quality. It is very important to ensure those who provide higher education in Colorado are doing a good job of allowing students to learn and progress.

7. Alignment and Transfer Policies – The pathways for alignment, the articulation agreements and dual enrollment are very important to student success, as over half of all college students start at one institution and graduate from another. It is CCHE's obligation to give a clear path for students to be successful, while ensuring institutions are providing quality education.
8. Collaborative Frameworks – CCHE's convening authority has the opportunity to create collaboration among institutions, K-12, businesses, government and the community. CCHE can develop plans, programs and commitments with these groups to advance student success.
9. Convening – CCHE needs partners, especially elected partners, the Governor; those that have the authority to help move the agenda forward. Partnerships with the offices across administrations and legislative terms are especially important.

Mr. Pernsteiner noted that CCHE does not have all the levers yet but has enough to make progress on a public agenda in Colorado.

Representative Court asked how the public can be convinced higher education is a public good, as polling shows that the citizenry thinks it is an individual's responsibility.

Mr. Longanecker said one of the challenges is Colorado imports many college graduates from other states. The result is no direct connection to Colorado's system of higher education. One possibility, as attempted in Oregon, is to put the costs of college on paper, along with what the state funds are, thus trying to make a case for public funding. Communication from the Commission/Department, to the public, is very important.

Mr. Pernsteiner said that bringing higher education ballot measures, whether they pass or not, could work by keeping the issue in the public's consciousness. He admits during the next decade, public pensions and healthcare costs will be stiff competitors for funding.

Representative Court said that because of TABOR, Colorado has to ask the public for revenue. Therefore, having a narrative for the public to understand the value of the investment is crucial.

Commissioner Polsfut said that higher education is a public good but there is also a moral good in funding education for others that isn't being talked about. Commissioners serve on CCHE because they want others to benefit others. The discussion turned to the question of educating people for jobs or for enjoyment, knowledge and citizenship.

Senator Todd said that encouraging students to attend college is important, but there is currently no assurance of employment after graduation. She believes degrees should be related to a job. Mr. Longanecker replied that degrees are increasingly related to workforce readiness.

Commissioner Rodriguez said that with need-based aid and capital funding as important levers, the Commission could be more effective given the lack of funding. Mr. Pernsteiner suggested that stacking, locking and maximizing the amounts available to the student would help.

Lt. Governor Garcia asked if there was value in trying to limit competition by defining stricter roles and missions in the public system. Mr. Longanecker said he is a proponent of mission differentiation but said goals would not be reached without the public-private partnerships, and stressed the importance of not having unnecessary duplication in the public sector. New programs should come from the needs of the state, not the desires of faculty. He also noted there is a fine line between mission differentiation and healthy competition.

Legislative Update – Chad Marturano, Director of Legislative Affairs, informed the Commission on the status of higher education-related bills currently in the legislature.

S.B.14-1319 Outcome-based Funding for Higher Education –this bill was heard in the House Education Committee where there was conversation regarding working with the institutions to change the funding formula and have it be transparent as well as have meaning behind it. Mr. Marturano spoke of the work the Commission and Department will have over the next nine to ten months. The Commissioners received a draft copy of the bill which included new amendments.

S.B.14-001 College Affordability Act – this bill is ready for the second reading in the Senate.

S.B.14-114 Student Access to CSU Global Campus –this bill passed both houses and is awaiting the Governor’s signature.

H.B.14-1124 In-state Tuition American Indians Tribes Ties to Colorado – this bill requires in-state tuition for a student who is a member of a federally recognized tribe with historical ties to Colorado. It is ready for the second reading in the House.

H.B.14-1154 Employment of Community College Faculty –this bill was postponed indefinitely due to the cost.

State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education (SACPIE) Annual Report - Dawn Taylor Owens, College in Colorado, Cathy Lines, SACPIE Chair and Dr. Darcy Hutchins, Colorado Department of Education Family Partnership Director. Tamra White introduced Ms. Lines and Dr. Hutchins to present the Annual Report to the Commission. Ms. Lines explained that SACPIE tried to decrease dropouts in high school and increase on-time graduation in higher education by researching best practices. The goal this year is to inventory information regarding the family role in mission completion and decreasing remediation. The report summarizes the work and makes recommendations. She highlighted the statewide trainings and participation at conferences to get their message out. Their next mission is to establish a metric.

Commissioner Garcia asked if there was an outreach effort to increase membership in Pueblo and surrounding areas. Ms. Lines replied that positions in SACPIE are in state stature.

Commissioner Haynes asked what the response from higher education has been regarding increased parental engagement. Ms. Lines responded the SACPIE has a contact in every two and four year institution.

CONSENT ITEMS

Recommendation to Approve Administrator (3.04) Educator Preparation Program at Adams State University

Recommend Approval to Offer Principal Licensure at Colorado State University – Global Campus

Recommend Approval to Offer Reading Teacher and Reading Specialist Endorsements at Colorado College

Reauthorization of Educator Preparation at University of Colorado Boulder

Reauthorization of Educator Preparation at University of Colorado Denver

Approve Degree with Designation in Criminal Justice at Aims Community College

Recommendation to Enter into the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

Recommend Approval of CCHE Policy I, T: Student Complaints

Recommend Approval of CCHE Policy I, L: Statewide Transfer and gtPathways

**Two-Year Capital Program Amendments – Metropolitan State University of Denver
Cash Funded Revenue Bond Intercept Capital Program Plan – Colorado Mesa University**

Recommend SAI Authorization at Aims Community College

Commissioner Haynes moved to approve the consent items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Polsfut and unanimously passed.

ACTION ITEM

Approval of CCHE Policy I, F: Admissions Standards – Tamara White, Director of Admission and Access Policy, gave the Commission an overview of the new GED assessment. Beginning in January 2014, the new GED high school equivalency exam was introduced that included four areas; math, reading, science and social science. Students need a score of 150 or above in each content area to pass. High performing students (scores of 170 or higher) can receive an honors score. With a lack of data on student performance after the exam, institutions

were hesitant to move towards that honor score. They believed it might exclude students from their institutions. The suggestion is that this policy reflect the score of 150 until December 2014 in order to collect additional data

Commissioner Garcia asked for more information on the GED prep programs. Ms. White will work with the Colorado Department of Education to get the information for the Commissioner.

Commissioner Polsfut moved to approve the proposed revision to the Admissions Standards Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes and unanimously passed.

Commissioner Rodriguez moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes. The meeting was adjourned at 3:20pm.