

Academic Council

April 13, 2021 – 1:30 - 3:00pm
Colorado Department of Higher Education
REMOTE ONLY

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Meeting ID: 930 0374 1315

Agenda -- **NOTES**

1. **1:00 to 1:30 – Stakeholder meeting with four-year institutions**
Stakeholder meeting on potential legislation to authorize four-year institutions to grant an associate degree as a completion award under narrow circumstances (to students who did not transfer from a community college, earned 70 or more credits before withdrawing from the institution, did not enroll for two consecutive semesters, and completed all requirements to receive an associate degree, including all required general education courses)
2. Greetings and Introductions
In attendance: Mohamed Abdelrahman (CSU-P); Mark Anderson (UNC); John Berger (CSM); Kent Buchanan (ASU); Tom Christensen (UCCS); Katherine Eggert (CU Boulder); Kris Greer (FLC); Kurt Haas (CMU); Mike Lightner (CU System); Rick Miranda (CSU System); Bill Niemi (WCU); Landon Pirius (CCCS); Kathryn Regjo (CMC); Russ Rothamer (Aims); Paul Savory (CSU-G); Alfred Tatum (MSU Denver); Linda Van Doren (EGTC); Bitsy Cohn (Cohn Solutions Group); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Chloe Figg (CDHE); Kim Poast (CDHE); Chris Rasmussen (CDHE)
3. Approval of March Meeting Notes
[see handout: 2021-03-09- NOTES-AC.pdf]
Notes approved
4. Announcements and Discussion Items
 - a. All things COVID-19 and other challenges of our times...
 - No state mandates for vaccines at this time; however, it is up to each IHE to determine how they will manage this with their students returning in the fall, especially residential campuses. Policies are evolving.
 - Fort Lewis College is the first public IHE to mandate vaccines for their students returning fall semester; however, there will be an option for medical and religious exemptions.
 - CU campuses will be implementing 3 feet of distance between students for fall semester based upon the newly updated CDC guidance.
 - CCCS is still discussing vaccine policies, including specifically for their campuses with residential life, athletics, etc.
 - ASU recently met with their county health office to discuss their options.
 - Kim discussed the possibility of the Department conducting in-person meetings over the summer months, but more to come on this.

b. Report on the April 2 CCHE meeting

- The Commission has been asking various IHEs to make presentations about how the pandemic has affected enrollment and student retention.
- There was a very lengthy discussion about a major renovation project at Adams State University requiring supplemental funding to complete. The Commission ultimately approved the request, with a 9-2 vote, but expressed reluctance about doing so.
- The higher education budget is not in nearly as dire straits as had been anticipated. The Department's budget request to restore funding to FY19-20 levels was approved. In addition, institutions will receive an overall increase in state funding for operating of 9.6%, or \$81.8 million.

c. HB20-1002 Implementation: Working Group Updates

- Bitsy Cohn, of Cohn Solutions Group, provided a brief update regarding the work of the subcommittee.
- The subcommittee has met twice now and is in the process of developing a plan for three identified industries: IT, Health Care, and Project Management, based upon the needs of the state via the Talent Pipeline Report (TPL).
- The draft of the plan will be delivered to the leadership team by May.
- Related to the study of prior learning assessment processes, Bitsy will be sending a questionnaire to IHE contacts that were previously identified later this week and follow up interviews will be scheduled for later this month.

5. New, modified, and closed programs

New

Colorado Mesa University

- M.S. in Occupational Therapy

Western Colorado University

- M.A. in Special Education

Modified

None

Closed Programs

None