

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
Colorado State Bank Building  
June 7, 2018**

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

Vice Chairman Renny Fagan called the business meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

**A. Attendance**

Vice Chairman Renny Fagan, Commissioners Maia Babbs, Vanecia Kerr, Tom McGimpsey, Monte Moses, and Paula Sandoval attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Chad Marturano, Audy Leggere-Hickey and Misti Ruthven.

**B. Minutes**

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2018 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sandoval and passed unanimously.

**C. Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners and Advisors Reports**

- Vice Chairman Fagan thanked Dr. Kim Hunter Reed for her leadership and many accomplishments during her tenure at the Department of Higher Education. Other Commissioners and Advisors also thanked Dr. Reed and wished her well.
- Student Advisor Audy Leggere-Hickey notified the Commission that her term had ended and this was her last meeting. Ms. Leggere-Hickey was sincerely thanked for her service.

**D. Executive Director Report**

- Dr. Kim Hunter Reed thanked the Commission and told the Commissioners that the new Executive Director, Dan Baer, would continue the momentum the Department has built this last year.
- The U.S. Department of Education anticipates releasing its application for the Federal GEAR UP program on June 7<sup>th</sup>. GEAR UP has been operating in Colorado since 1999, through three seven-year cycles of grant funding.
- Dr. Reed and Dr. Baer had a transition meeting with Lumina recently. Colorado is the first state in the nation to receive the Lumina Grant for equity. Tennessee was second and Lumina has made no other investments at this point.
- The Department co-hosted a two-day public policy forum with the University of Denver that was entirely focused on erasing equity gaps in higher education.

Vice Chairman Fagan invited the new Executive Director, Dr. Dan Baer, to introduce himself to the Commission.

## **II. Consent Items**

- A. Degree Authorization Act – Recommendation for the Renewal of Probationary Authorization for CollegeAmerica- Colorado Springs and CollegeAmerica- Fort Collins – Heather DeLange**
- B. Recommend Approval of Special Education Generalist Endorsement at Relay – Graduate School Of Education – Dr. Brittany Lane**

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve consent items A and B. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sandoval and unanimously passed.

## **III. Written Report**

### **A. Legislative Report on Developmental Education for the High School Class of 2016**

Michael Vente, Director of Research at DHE, introduced the agenda item related to DHE's annual developmental education report. Due to the release of other national reports related to Colorado during the same week, the release of the annual developmental education report for the Colorado High School Class of 2016 was delayed. Mr. Vente said that the report would be released in the coming weeks. As such, Mr. Vente delayed his presentation on the report to a future CCHE meeting.

Mr. Vente introduced two guests to the Commission, Dr. Rhonda Epper, Provost at Community College of Denver, and Armando Manzanares, former Community College of Denver student and current Community College of Denver employee. Dr. Epper shared an overview of various reforms to the developmental education system made at Community College of Denver (CCD) including the adoption of co-requisite developmental education and Math Pathways for their students. She shared an analysis conducted by The Boston Consulting Group with support from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The analysis showed drastically improved outcomes for students as a result of these reforms. Mr. Manzanares shared his story of working through the various barriers of the traditional developmental education model as he pursued his postsecondary degree and how the reforms at CCD were crucial to his ultimate success.

Commissioner Moses commended CCD for making these reforms and asked how difficult the transition was for the campus. Dr. Epper said that the reforms required a culture shift but that research on the improved outcomes for students helped convince faculty and staff of the importance of the reforms. Mr. Manzanares added that the transition was easy, once the type of Math courses he took matched his degree path. Advisor Cavanaugh asked where Colorado ranked nationally in terms of enacting these types of reforms. Dr. Epper said that Colorado was at the cutting edge of the work in this field. Dr. Reed asked what recommendations Dr. Epper had to help continue this work. Dr. Epper said that giving campuses more flexibility to experiment with these types of reforms was helpful. She also said that additional studies into student outcomes and potential methodological changes to DHE's annual developmental education report may be

needed. Dr. Baer asked if CCD could scale the work they've accomplished to support other campuses and their developmental education needs. Dr. Epper said that CCD could partner with other campuses, but that more work on helping inform student pathways from K12 to postsecondary was needed. Commissioner Sandoval asked how hard it was to get student to take co-requisite developmental education courses. Dr. Epper said that traditional developmental education course were also offered to students but few student took those courses if co-requisite developmental education was available. Commissioner Kerr asked how CCD could get more students into co-requisite developmental education. Dr. Epper said that students are given information on co-requisite developmental education when they enroll and are automatically enrolled in the course, if needed.

#### **IV. Action Item**

##### **A. Fiscal Year 2018-19 Financial Aid Allocations – Andrew Rauch**

Andrew Rauch, Director of Institutional Finance, presented this action item to seek approval of the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Financial Aid Allocations for the State's undergraduate need, graduate need, work-study, merit, and career and technical education financial aid programs.

Mr. Rauch presented the allocation methodology of each one of the allocations, noting that the CCHE already approved the need-based aid allocation model, which steps up the allocation between grade level for Pell-eligible FTE as an incentive to institutions to retain and complete students. Graduate need-based aid is tied to eligible FTE enrolled in certain, high-demand fields. Merit aid is allocated based on an institution's share of eligible, resident FTE. For the work-study allocation, institutions retained their current allocation and the new funding was allocated based on the proportion of FTE.

Commissioner Babbs asked about the share of funds and how it breaks down across federal, state, and institutional. Staff did not have exact numbers, but will follow up to provide the information to Commissioner Babbs.

Commissioner Babbs moved to approve the financial aid allocation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moses and unanimously passed.

#### **V. Master Plan Progress**

##### **A. 2018 Legislative Session Wrap-Up –Tyler Mounsey and Andrew Rauch**

Andrew Rauch provided a budget update to CCHE as part of the discussion item. Mr. Rauch walked through the \$61.7 million provided for state operating to the institutions and the changes relative to the Governor's request. Staff outlined the adjustments to financial aid, \$13.9 million total broken down by \$11.9 million for need-based aid and \$2.0 million for work study. Staff worked through the tuition increases, noting the 3% exceptions made for CU-Boulder, given their guarantee and Fort Lewis College, given their tuition situation.

Mr. Rauch also provided an update on the increase for COSI's \$2.0 million and legislation impacting the Department. HB 1331 provided additional funding for Open Educational Resources, HB 1332 provided funding for rural teacher initiatives, HB 1226 provided an FTE for a return on investment report, SB 200 buys down the unfunded liability for the Public Employees Retirement Program,

which has substantial campus-level impacts, and SB 86 which provided one-time investment for institutions to accelerate master plan goals.

Tyler Mounsey then reviewed many bills including HB18-1217; Income Tax Credit for Employer 529 Contributions, HB18-1332; Collaborative Educator Preparation Program, SB18-087; In-state Tuition Foreign Nationals Settled in Colorado and SB18-101; CSU Global Campus Student Admission Criteria.

## **VI. Discussion Item**

### **A. CCHE Policy Experimentation Process – Dr. Kim Poast**

Dr. Kim Poast, Chief Student Success & Academic Affairs Officer, introduced a discussion item that provided context for the development of a “policy experiment” for public postsecondary institutions. The purpose of policy experiments is to allow institutions to catalyze innovation, collect evidence, and inform meaningful policy change in Colorado.

At the national level, the Experimental Sites Initiative has been in practice in various formats since the 1980s. The US Department of Education (USDOE) has launched around 30 ‘experiments’ over the years - most of which have centered around ‘testing’ new rules for federal student aid

For Colorado, staff recommend creating an environment where institutions may experiment around certain Academic Affairs and Student Service CCHE policy areas (this may be expanded). In order to qualify for an experiment, a postsecondary institution must provide the following to the Director of Educational Innovations (or designee): 1) Specific policy name/number; 2) Type of experiment requested; 3) Policy goals that experiment is intended to address; 4) Any research or evidence base for proposed experiment; 5) Proposed length of experiment; 6) Proposed data collection process.

After a robust discussion of the experimentation policy framework, Commissioners requested that additional information be provided prior to bringing back to the CCHE for vote. Specifically, Commissioners requested that staff identify specific CCHE policy areas that might be eligible for experimentation (and those that would be ineligible) and strongly cautioned against creating a system that encourages institutions from creating environments that are too flexible, thus watering down the intent of protecting state wide student protections and interests.

*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.*