



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
At Colorado Department of Higher Education, 1600 Broadway, Suite 500
September 5, 2019**

BUSINESS MEETING

I. OPENING BUSINESS

Interim Chair Vanecia Kerr called the business meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

A. Attendance

Interim Chair Vanecia Kerr, Commissioners Luis Colon, Mary Beth Buescher, Sarah Hughes, Tom McGimpsey, Charley Olena (by phone), Brittany Stich, Eric Tucker, Steven Trujillo.

CCHE Advisory Committee members attending: Rep. Julie McCluskie, Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Kim Johnson, Christina Powell, Brad Baca, Misti Ruthven.

B. Minutes

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the minutes for the July 26, 2019, CCHE Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tucker and passed unanimously.

C. Election of Chair

Interim Chair Kerr reviewed the election process. She then called for election by acclamation since there is only one person nominated. Commissioner Buescher moved to accept the nomination of Commissioner McGimpsey as Chair by acclamation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colon and passed unanimously.

D. Chair, Vice-Chair, Commissioners and Advisors Reports

Interim Chair Kerr thanked the department for a great retreat in July. She commended the programming because it allowed for deep consideration of broader issues. The retreat overall was an excellent opportunity to connect with each other and leadership at Ft. Lewis College. Chair Kerr thanked the entire team at DHE for the experience of the retreat.



Chair Kerr read proclamations for outgoing Commissioners Fagan and Babbs. She thanked both for their service to the state and commitment to higher education. Chair Kerr then presented Commissioner Colon with a plaque commemorating his time as chair of the commission.

Commissioner Hughes reported on her participation in the Aspen Institute State Education Leaders Retreat in August. The Aspen Institute pulled together key states where there is a change in leadership at the governor's level, and that included Wisconsin, Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois, and Colorado. The goal and purpose of the conference was to put together their representatives to focus on pre-K, preschool through higher ed, to help build alignment and consistency in goals and refocus higher education. It was unbelievably successful in creating some opportunity for entities in state to break bread and to learn from one another. Colorado's contingent had a cohesion that was noticeable and palpable from the get-go, and so for us, it was not pretending to continue to strengthen those bonds but, more importantly, learn from others in the room, Commissioner Hughes said.

Commissioner McGimpsey reported that he is actively working with Dr. Paccione and the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding a tribal consultant or consultancy agreement. He welcomed any thoughts or ideas commissioners might have on this work.

Commissioner Buescher reported that she participated in a meeting at Colorado Northwestern Community College with Chancellor Joe Garcia, Rick Garcia, Department of Local Affairs, Joe Barela, Department of Labor, and Betsy Markey, Office of Economic Development and International Trade. Senator Rankin had previously helped determine eight priorities for Craig that provided a solid starting point for discussions between leaders from both communities. There was a discussion about aligning the programming at the college more with the community needs. To address some of the concerns of Craig, they have appointed a new vice president, John Anderson, who is solely for the Craig campus, so there is somebody there every day to make decisions.

Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee –

Commissioner Colon reported as Interim Chair for the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee. The committee met on August 23 and discussed several topics. First and foremost was the prioritization of capital project requests both on the construction site as well as on the IT side. There were some minor changes in the prioritization of projects as they had seen before. The committee also discussed another item on today's agenda, the MSU Denver cash fund supplemental request. They talked briefly about the funding allocation formula, but not much changed as they were waiting for feedback from the governor's office.



Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee –.

Carl Einhaus, Senior Director of Student Success & Academic Affairs, reported on today's meeting of that committee. Due to the absence of the chair, Commissioner Gannett, the meeting was unofficial. They discussed a few agenda items that are on the meeting agenda today including the admissions policy, proposed changes, and other topics.

Advisor Reports-

Advisor Dr. Wayne Artis reported on an agreement between Harrison District 2 in Colorado Springs and Pikes Peak Community College. The agreement is a sort of guaranteed admission with all expenses paid and wraparound support services for graduates of Harrison District 2 beginning in the fall of 2020.

Advisor Cavanaugh reported that Colorado College had launched a new scholarship program called the Colorado Pledge. This scholarship program is going to put expensive private institution much more within reach of Coloradans who are middle income and even high income.

Advisor Johnson met with the Student Advisory Board last month. They have chosen to work on changing student loan deferrals to extend from six months to one year. They are hoping to get sponsorship from senators here in Colorado. The group will be meeting at CDHE this month, and commissioners were invited to attend.

E. Executive Director Report

Executive Director Paccione reported on her participation in a memorandum signing at UNC between the university and Aims Community College. The agreement allows for a smoother or faster transition between those two institutions for students who want to get their associate degree at Aims, and they go right into UNC with no application fee. She mentioned that there is a lot of crossover, and this could be a really good model for the state to do this with many of the institutions, the four-year institutions which are located very close to one of the community colleges. She reported on her attendance at the SHEEO Higher Education Directors Conference and the SHEEO Policy Conference. She noted that many of the breakout sessions at these convenings referenced things that we are already doing here in Colorado, especially the transfer agreements. She said we are right on track and leading the way with many of the issues. Dr. Paccione attended a COSI Conference (Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative) at Western State University. COSI has been extremely successful in putting money right in the hands of students and also providing wraparound services necessary for students to succeed. She invited commissioners to attend meetings of the Interim Committee on Higher Education. The department has some convenings planned that will look at the social determinants of student success. Food security, housing security, and mental health will be addressed. Commissioners are also encouraged to attend these convenings. She reported on a site visit to



Colorado Mesa University and an upcoming visit to Adams State College. Again, commissioners are welcome to participate.

Public Comment-

Matt Gianneschi, Colorado Mountain College Chief Operating Officer, addressed the commission. He congratulated Commissioner Hughes on being appointed to the commission as a representative from the central mountains. Mr. Gianneschi wanted to raise the commission's attention as they consider the items that are on the table on today's agenda. CMC, like many of the rural institutions in the State of Colorado, has 11 campuses in rural locations in Colorado, all western slope communities, mostly resort towns.

Regarding service areas: CMC as a local district college has a unique authority that's found in state law. It's been there for more than 50 years that allows an adjacent school district to elect to join an existing local college district. On August 13, a resolution was passed to put a question on the ballot. Mr. Gianneschi encouraged commissioners to move this up to action, if possible. The issue can wait but does need to be resolved before the election at some point, or else we will find ourselves in violation of state law.

The second issue is a note for the commissioners about agenda item IV B. This is around the baccalaureate programs both for the community colleges and for the local district colleges. This proposed rule does include language that requires that any proposed programs go through a full review with the state's Academic Council. He asked that if there are concerns with degree programs, that they get raised with the Commission rather than through staff at other institutions who may not know the context. Mr. Gianneschi invited the commission to any of the CMC campuses for their next convening or retreat.

Mr. George Walker spoke to the commission about the 1619 report on how slavery still affects higher education. Mr. James Brody, a CU alumnus, reported on a letter he wrote to President Kennedy at CU regarding concerns about the one percent enrollment of African Americans. He pointed out that this enrollment percentage has been relatively unchanged for 40 years. Mr. Brody pointed out that his concern is that something is done about this disparity. He said that it is unacceptable that in 2019 there are issues that should have been resolved 40 or 50 years ago.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

- A.** Proposed revisions to CCHE Policy Section I, Part F: Admissions Standards Policy – *Carl Einhaus*
- B.** Recommendation of Approval of Reauthorization of Educator Preparation Unit at Adams State University - *Dr. Brittany Lane*
- C.** Degree Authorization Act: Regis University – Recommendation of Approval for Renewal of Authorization – *Heather DeLange*



- D. Degree Authorization Act: Southwest Acupuncture College – Recommendation of Approval for Renewal of Authorization – *Heather DeLange*
- E. Degree Authorization Act: Camp Gunnison – Recommendation of Approval for Renewal of Authorization as a Religious Training Institution/Seminary - *Heather DeLange*
- F. Degree Authorization Act: Yeshiva Torah Institute - Recommendation of Approval for Renewal of Authorization as a Religious Training Institution/Seminary – *Heather DeLange*
- G. Degree Authorization Act: Reformed University and Seminary – Recommendation for Authorization of International as a Religious Training Institution/Seminary – *Heather DeLange*
Recommendation of Approval of Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List Amendment - Colorado State University – Fort Collins –*Lauren Gilliland*

Commissioner Buescher moved to approve consent items A through G. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hughes and passed unanimously.

III. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Recommendation of Approval of Fiscal Year 2020-21 New and Continuing State-Funded Capital Projects and Priority List – *Lauren Gilliland*

Staff discussed the annual capital prioritization process. Staff presented the FY 2020-21 Capital Construction and Renewal prioritized list, and the FY 2020-21 Capital IT prioritized list approved by the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Committee. Staff also presented an alternative Capital IT list that corrected for a mistake Community College of Denver (CCD) made during the appeal period. Advisor Baca brought up concerns about institutions changing cash contributions during the appeal period. Commissioners agreed to discuss this at a later time. Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve, and Commissioner Colon seconded the motion. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the FY 2020-21 Capital Construction and Renewal prioritized list to be forwarded to the Capital Development Committee and Office of State Planning and Budgeting. Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the revision, seconded by Commissioner Tucker. Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the FY 2020-21 Capital IT prioritized list to be forwarded to the Joint Technology Committee and Office of State Planning and Budgeting contingent on all institutions impacted by CCD’s correction approving the change.

- B. Recommendation of Approval of Regular Cash Supplemental for Colorado School of Mines’ Subsurface Frontiers Building Project – *Lauren Gilliland*



Staff explained the purpose of supplementals and described the supplemental at hand. Staff also provided an overview of the City of Golden’s initial concerns with the project, and the resolution that has occurred since. Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve, Commissioner Buescher seconded. Commissioners unanimously approved the supplemental. Approval will be communicated to the Office of State Planning and Budgeting and the Capital Development Committee.

C. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy Section X Part X: Clarification of the Definition of “Ownership Change” – *Emily Burns and Jacquelynn Rich Fredricks*

Emily Burns and Jacquelynn Rich Fredricks led a discussion of scenarios in which questions of whether ownership change had occurred or not may arise. Commissioners responded by adopting a broad definition of “ownership change” which aligns with both the federal Department of Education and Higher Learning Commission’s definition of ownership change. Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve, Commissioner Buescher seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

IV. Discussion Items

~~A. DELAYED - Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation of Provisional Authorization for Calvary University – *Heather DeLange*~~

B. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part V: Creation of Academic Programs – Process for Review and Approval of Select Baccalaureate Degree Programs at Colorado Community College System Institutions and Local District Colleges – *Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Dr. Rasmussen introduced proposed changes to the policy, which were designed to provide a more detailed, transparent, step-by-step process to guide community colleges and local district colleges proposing new baccalaureate degree programs, and to ensure that four-year institutions have adequate time to review and provide feedback on program proposals. Dr. Rasmussen also indicated it was necessary to revise the policy in response to a statutory change that will allow Colorado Mountain College to offer a “limited number” of baccalaureate degree programs.

Dr. Rasmussen and Dr. Kim Poast indicated that concerns had been raised about the role of the Academic Council in the program proposal review process, with the sentiment that the proposed policy changes give the Academic Council decision making authority that is beyond the scope of its role as a consultative body for the Department. Drs. Rasmussen and Poast shared that the reference in the policy to “consensus” was designed to call out the consultative role of the Academic Council as the primary stakeholder group on a wide range of academic policy matters. They indicated that they would revise the language in response to concerns, and ensure that the review process for programs proposed by CMC



aligns with the different statutory provisions that govern local district colleges (compared to institutions in the Colorado Community College System).

C. Fiscal Year 2020-21 Student Budget Parameters – *Emily Burns and Emma Fedorchuk*- Delayed

D. Departmental Response to Legislative Request for Information regarding Commission Authority on State Financial Aid, *Emily Burns*

Staff led a discussion of the legislative request for information that was received by the Department and outlined the existing statute as well as examples of CCHE authority granted by statute shaping policy and allocations. Staff recommended that no changes be made to the statute at this time, the Commission voted in unanimous agreement with staff recommendation.

E. Funding Allocation Formula Revision to be included in November 1 Budget Request, *Jason Schrock, Emily Burns, and Emma Fedorchuk*

Staff led a discussion of the funding formula review process as well as an update on the current iteration of the formula. Staff indicated that they believed the new formula meets the goals for the revisions process. The latest iteration incorporates a metric for awarding funding for GT Pathways concurrent enrollment and dual enrollment credits hours as well as awards funding based on high and/or improving graduation rates.

Staff fielded questions from Commissioners regarding how various credit hours and degree completions are counted in the model, such as the treatment of transfer credits and degree program partnerships involving two institutions. Commissioners also indicated they would like to learn the feedback from institutions on the revised formula as well as the Governor's office. Commissioners also questioned how a decrease in state funding would be handled as the formula is not designed to allocate funding decreases. Staff closed by noting that the Department hopes to have a final formula to present to the commission at the October 24 meeting. If approved, the formula could then be incorporated into the November 1 Governor's budget request to the legislature.

F. Proposed Revisions to CCHE Policy I, Part N: Service Area Policy – Inclusion of All Portions of Salida School District into the Service Area of Colorado Mountain College – *Dr. Kim Poast and Dr. Chris Rasmussen*

Dr. Rasmussen introduced a recommended minor change to the service area description for Colorado Mountain College (CMC) in advance of a November referendum in the Salida school district for annexation into the CMC taxing district. The change would move a small portion of the Salida school district located in Fremont County from the service area of Pueblo Community College



(PCC) into the service area of CMC. The recommendation policy changes also included a small technical fix in the service area description for Pueblo Community College (which erroneously included Chaffee County). Dr. Matt Gianneschi of CMC and Dr. Kim Poast of CDHE provided additional context and responded to commissioner questions, along with Dr. Rasmussen.

Commissioner Hughes moved for the agenda item to be moved from a discussion item to an action item. Commissioner Buescher seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Hughes then moved to accept the recommended changes to CCHE Policy I, Part N: Service Area Policy. Commissioner Colon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Non-monetary Supplemental Request for Metropolitan State University - Denver to Extend Cash Spending Authority on the Aerospace, Engineering and Sciences Building Project - *Lauren Gilliland*

Staff explained the non-monetary supplemental process and described the request at hand. Commissioners expressed support of this method over the reversion of funds to the state. George Middlemist, CFO of Metropolitan State University - Denver, and Janine Davidson, President of Metropolitan State University - Denver, responded to questions from various Commissioners. Commissioners voted to unanimously approve the supplemental. This will be communicated to the Office of State Planning and Budgeting and the Capital Development Committee.

Commissioner Colon moved for the agenda item to be moved from a discussion item to an action item. Commissioner Buescher seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Commissioner Buescher then moved to accept the recommended changes. Commissioner Colon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

