

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
Civic Center Plaza  
April 6, 2018**

**Commissioner and Advisor Learning Session**

The topic for the Learning Session was Equity in Practice presented by the Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer, Dr. Kim Poast. Her guests were Janiece Mackey, Young Aspiring Americans for Social & Political Activism and Jonathan McCorey, Urban Male Initiative Retention Specialist, Community College of Denver.

**I. OPENING BUSINESS**

Chairman Luis Colón called the business meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

**A. Attendance**

Chairman Luis Colón, Vice Chairman Renny Fagan, Commissioners Maia Babbs, Mary Beth Buescher, Vanecia Kerr, Tom McGimpsey, and Monte Moses attended the meeting. Commissioner Paula Sandoval attended via conference call.

Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Audy Leggere-Hickey, Keri Lee, and Misti Ruthven. Advisors Chad Marturano and Barbara Morris attended via conference call.

**B. Minutes**

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2018 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buescher and passed unanimously.

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

- Chairman Colón reported he had been named co-chair of one of the subcommittees of the Educational Leadership Council (ELC). The ELC is a governor appointed council of which he and Dr. Kim Hunter Reed are members. The subcommittee concerns adult learners and the objective of the subcommittees will be to create a roadmap for the education system, from pre-school through post-graduate school, by the end of the year.
- The Chairman also discussed the nursing bill (HB 18-1086) that was passed into law recently. He noted that the bill passed into law without the Governor's signature for two important reasons. First, the governance structure created in the new law ignored the importance of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education's role in coordinating the state's higher education system. Second, the law was developed without the input from impacted stakeholders. Both Vice Chairman Fagan and Commissioner Moses agreed with the Chairman.
- Advisor Artis informed the Commission that the Colorado Faculty Advisory Council will meet on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

- Advisor Cavanaugh reported that the Federal government raised the Pell grant maximum to \$6,095.00 and increased funding for the TRIO and Gear Up programs in the spending bill.

#### **D. Executive Director Report**

- Dr. Kim Hunter Reed congratulated the budget and finance team for doing an excellent job on the budget negotiations. Higher education is anticipating an increase of \$109 million, which is approximately an 11% increase over last year's budget.
- Dr. Reed told the Commission that the Governor, in a letter accompanying HB 18-1086, directed CCHE, "to convene the appropriate stakeholders to understand where the industry is moving and how best to align educational programs with those trends." Staff will bring a plan to the Commission to accomplish this task.
- Conversations are continuing with faculty, academic advisors and provosts about the importance of developing plans for math pathways and scaling supplemental academic instruction as part of the master plan work.
- The Colorado Opportunity Scholarship initiative (COSI) had a very successful day at the Capitol. There is \$2 million in new money for COSI's budget this year.
- Dr. Reed started round two of her campus tours with her first visit to a private institution, Johnson and Wales University.
- Carl Einhaus, Director of Student Success, was congratulated on being named to the American Association of College Registrars and Administrators' student success working group.
- Although not present at the meeting, Dr. Reed noted that Dr. Ian Macgillivray will be leaving the department after 10 years and transitioning to the Colorado Community College System.

## **II. Consent Items**

**A. Degree Authorization Act: Johns Hopkins University – Request for Provisional Authorization** – Heather DeLange

**B. Degree Authorization Act: Lynn University – Request for Provisional Authorization** – Heather DeLange

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

**C. Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List Amendment – Colorado School of Mines** – Lauren Lopez

Commissioner Buescher moved to approve consent item C. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Babbs and unanimously passed.

## **III. Master Plan Progress**

**A. FY 2018-19 Budget Update** – Andrew Rauch, Director of Institutional Finance  
Mr. Rauch provided the Commission with an update on the Joint Budget Committee's (JBC) figure setting actions and other budgetary items.

He started by reminding the Commission about the contents of the November 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Budget Request.

- **\$59 million** in increased operating funds for public postsecondary institutions. This request was intended to be the first in a multi-year plan to address affordability.
- **\$13.9 million** in additional financial aid, with increases provided in both need-based aid and work-study.
- **\$1.5 million** to create a new statewide Emergency Completion and Retention Grant Program designed to increase completion for students faced with emergency financial needs that could derail their academic persistence, with priority given to students close to earning a credential.
- **\$5 million** to increase institutional capacity to provide high-demand certificates. This program would be run through an RFP process and regionalized to meet demands throughout Colorado.
- **\$4 million increase to the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI)**, bringing the total annual appropriation to \$9 million General Fund in FY 2018-19. This increase would allow for a significant increase in state-community matching scholarships and sustain the current student support grants which have been proven to enhance student success.

The JBC adopted much of the Governor's request, but some changes and additional items that were included. The Committee approved \$82.2 million increase to higher education as part of the Long Bill. The JBC also included additional funding for higher education in a number of set-asides. The total estimated increase is \$109 million. Additional information on specific pieces of the approved amounts and set-asides was provided.

#### **B. Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment 2016-2017 Academic Year –**

Michael Vente, Director of Research

Mr. Vente presented the *Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment, 2016-2017 Academic Year*, a joint report between the Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) and the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Mr. Vente shared several highlights from the report. DHE worked with CDE on an analysis identifying low/no Concurrent Enrollment participating districts to better understand the barriers districts experience in offering Concurrent Enrollment to their students. Agency staff from both DHE and CDE will be engaging in a strategic planning process to provide universal access to Concurrent Enrollment in Colorado. Mr. Vente also outlined several research projects currently in-progress related to Concurrent Enrollment.

Advisor Cavanaugh asked why counts of students with an unknown ethnicity were so high in the report. Mr. Vente said that the race/ethnicity data are provided to DHE from individual institutions of higher education, so a variety of reasons for this exist. Chairman Colón asked if passed Concurrent Enrollment courses transferred to institutions of higher education out-of-state. Mr. Vente responded that the out-of-state institution has the ability to make the determination of whether or not to accept Concurrent Enrollment credit from Colorado. Commissioner Kerr noted that one student received a bachelor's degree in high school using Concurrent Enrollment and ASCENT.

#### **IV. Presentation**

### **A. K-12 Postsecondary Workforce Readiness (PWR) and the Career**

**Credentials Pilot Program** – Misti Ruthven, Executive Director of Innovation and Pathways, Colorado Department of Education

Illustrating with a PowerPoint, Ms. Ruthven provided the Commissioners with summary and updates regarding the Colorado Department of Education’s work on Postsecondary Workforce Readiness initiatives. Topics included updated statistics on graduation, matriculation and remediation rates, as well as programs such as Concurrent Enrollment, ASCENT, Advanced Placement, Early Colleges & P-TECH, CTE, and work-based learning/apprenticeship opportunities. Ms. Ruthven highlighted that much of this work is done in partnership with the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Additionally, the graduation guidelines that begin with the class of 2020-2021 were discussed. Commissioners showed interest in much of the data and the issues of ensuring college-credit opportunities are available to all Colorado students particularly in rural areas.

## **V. Discussion Items**

**A. Prior Learning Assessment: Recommendations for Awarding College Credit for Military Courses and Occupations, College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)** – Dr. Kim Poast, Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer and Bitsy Cohen, Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL)

Dr. Kim Poast presented on the Prior Learning Assessment Discussion item and HB 17-1004 which concerns transferability of military credits. Dr. Poast provided an overview of the policy goals for this discussion which are:

- Address statutory requirements of military PLA bill (HB 17-1004)
- Continue to align and expand the current PLA policy
- Address inconsistencies in policy where students might lose credit
- Support the goals of the CCHE master plan

Bitsy Cohn discussed national research from CAEL and the American Council on Education (and others) on students with PLA, as well as her experience at the Community College System as the Director of Prior Learning Assessment. There is strong national research that demonstrates that under all circumstances, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, etc., students who bring in prior learning credits are 3 to 4 times more likely to complete a degree or certificate. Students with PLA persist, have better course completion rates, and do better in subsequent courses than their native peers in college. In terms of PLA policy, Bitsy expressed that the conversation should be driven by student success while acknowledging faculty concerns.

Dr. Poast discussed components of good PLA policy and the process by which the Commission and Academic Council/GE Council (and constituent groups) have been working through changes to the policy. She discussed the current policy and staff interpretation of HB 17-1004 which is that if the Commission takes no action, then according to the bill language, institutions of higher education shall “accept in transfer within the institutions and from other state institutions, prior in learning assessment credit awarded for courses with guaranteed transfer designation.” This means that anything on a Joint Services Transcript that is evaluated by one institution for gtPathways must be accepted by receiving institutions once that student transfers. Dr. Poast reviewed the staff recommendations, and indicated where there has been

consensus among constituent groups and where there has not. Dr. Poast also acknowledged that stakeholder groups have made significant progress since 2015.

Dr. Michael Lightner (University of Colorado System Provost) provided public comment during this time to express the position of CU System, CSU Ft. Collins and UNC on recommended changes to the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Policy. He noted that GE Council and Academic Council have reviewed and approved the military courses and occupations on page 23 of the discussion item. The three campuses endorse this recommendation for approval by the Commission. However, the campuses are concerned with the additional recommendations in the discussion item as they have not been reviewed with GE and Academic Councils and were unaware that these were coming to the Commission. The campuses believe that this is a violation of the accepted CCHE process on PLA. The campuses recommend that the commission move forward with the military course and occupation recommendations and noted that they send the remaining back to the department for further review.

Commissioners had a robust discussion on both the process of negotiating PLA as well as the current statutory requirements. Their recommendation was for staff to ensure that every effort is made to garner discussion from Academic and GE council, as well as other constituent groups. Recommendations that come to the commission should reflect that feedback, and if possible, consensus. However, the Commission has been involved in the PLA discussion for several years, and will be prepared to take action at the May meeting.

## **B. Legislative Update – Katie Zaback and Tyler Mounsey**

Ms. Zaback began her update by acknowledging Mr. Mounsey and Mr. Rauch for their work thus far during the legislative session. She then provided an update on the legislative agenda which included SB18-133 – Concerning the Expansion of Surety Bond Use for Private Occupational Schools. This bill continues to move through the senate and has been assigned to the House Education Committee. The department is also following two orbital bills attached to the long bill including HB18-1331– Higher Education Open Educational Resources and HB18-1332 – Collaborative Educator Preparation Program Grants. Both of these bills came as a result of reports completed by the department in 2018.

Ms. Zaback also provided an update on a number of bills the department is monitoring including SB18-206 – Research Institutions Affordability For Residents which requires the research institutions in Colorado to admit 100% of academically qualified Colorado first-time freshman students, while changing the statutorily defined minimum threshold for in-state students from 2/3 to 55 percent. It also increases the cap on foreign students to 15% (from 12%). The Commissioners noted that one of the consequences of Colorado being one of the lowest in the nation in terms of state appropriations is that public institutions need to attract higher percentage of out-of-state students.

## **VI. Action Items**

**A. Fiscal Year 2018-19 Need Based Financial Aid Allocation Models – Andrew Rauch, Director of Institutional Finance**

Mr. Rauch presented this action item seeking approval of the recommended adjustments to the Completion Incentive Grant model methodology for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 undergraduate need-based financial aid allocations. The model presented had guardrails of -1% and +19%.

Commissioner Babbs moved to approve the financial aid model. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Fagan Sandoval and unanimously passed.

## **VII. Written Reports**

### **A. 2017 Annual Report on the Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority (CHECRA) – Inta Morris, Chief Advocacy and Outreach Officer**

Inta Morris presented the 2017 annual report of the Colorado Higher Education Competitive Research Authority (CHECRA). CHECRA was created by the General Assembly in 2008 to provide a source of matching funds to research institutions for federal grants that require a state match. Ms. Morris explained that the CHECRA is administered by the CDHE, but is an independent entity and not subject to oversight by the Commission.

By March 1 of each year, the CDHE (on behalf of the CHECRA) is required to submit a report to the state legislature providing a summary of the research projects that received funding from CHECRA in the previous calendar year. The 2017 annual report summarizes the six research projects that received funding in 2017, and also discusses some of the other benefits to the state from the research, including outreach to K-12 students and teachers and partnerships with schools in STEM fields.

*There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05pm.*