



**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting  
At Colorado Department of Higher Education, 1600 Broadway, Suite 2300  
October 24, 2019**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

Chair Tom McGimpsey called the business meeting to order at 12:56 pm.

**I. PRESENTATION**

**A. Upcoming Ballot Initiative – Prop CC – *Dan Ritchie, Chancellor Emeritus of the University of Denver***

Chancellor Emeritus Ritchie explained Prop CC and what it would mean to IHE's in Colorado if passed.

**II. OPENING BUSINESS**

**A. Attendance**

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

CCHE Advisory Committee members attending: Sen. Tammy Story, Rep. Cathy Kipp, Rep. Julie McCluskie, Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh (by phone), Brad Baca (by phone), Dr. Rick Miranda.

**B. Minutes**

Commissioner Tucker moved to approve the minutes for the Sept. 5, 2019 CCHE Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kerr and passed unanimously.



## C. Chair, Vice-Chair, Commissioners and Advisors Reports

**Chair Report** – Chair McGimpsey is working on a meeting with Colorado Tribes and the Department of Indian Affairs to discuss how we can work together. A draft agreement will be sent to commissioners for their review.

**Vice Chair Report** – Vice Chair Kerr reported on the College Track Breakfast and Fundraiser recently held. There were over 600 people in attendance, which is a 50% increase over last year.

**Fiscal Affairs & Audit Committee** – Chairman Tucker reported that the committee met on October 18. Discussion included the funding allocation formula, including adding concurrent enrollment to the formula. They also talked about capital expenditures.

**Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee** – Chairman Gannett reported that the committee met prior to this meeting. She reported the Free Application Day was a huge success. There is a question regarding whether the increased applications were due to students applying to multiple schools or more students applying overall. They are considering having another Free Application Day in the spring. The committee recognized the savings OER programs provide for students.

### Commissioner Reports –

1. **Commissioners Stich and Olena** reported on the October 15 visit to Adams State University with Executive Director Paccione and others. They recognized many of the excellent programs at Adams State and said the visit was informative and energizing.
2. **Commissioner Colon** suggested that everyone read the recent article in the Colorado Independent regarding the income sharing scholarship program at Colorado Mountain College.
3. **Commissioner Hughes** presented the Prop CC Resolution developed by the commissioners. After some discussion, Commissioner Hughes moved that adoption of the resolution be moved to an Action Item. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gannett and passed unanimously.

### Advisor Reports-

1. **Advisor Artis** reported that there will be a Faculty-to-Faculty meeting tomorrow (10/25) at CSU Pueblo.
2. **Rep. McCluskie** reported that much work is being done by the Early Childhood Commission on the workforce pipeline for early childhood professionals.

**D. Executive Director Report** – Dr. Paccione reiterated that Free Application Day was hugely successful. The second year of the event resulted in 44,360 applications



compared to just over 23,000 last year. She thanked the department communications team for all their work on the successful program. My Colorado Journey is a new platform with multi-agency support and grant funding from the Schmidt Foundation. She was in Pueblo yesterday with staff visiting CSU-Pueblo and Pueblo Community College, which are participating in the TIE Grant work on equity and inclusion. Dr. Paccione reported that CSU enrollment is first in the state at over 34,000. CSU is opening a new campus in Rocky Ford. Fort Lewis College received a \$2 million consulting grant. Chancellor Horrell is retiring from UCD and Colorado Mesa announced permanent scholarship funds.

**E. Public Comment-** There were no requests for public comment.

### III. CONSENT ITEMS

- A. Revised Fiscal Year 2020-21 Capital IT Prioritized List – *Lauren Gilliland*
- B. Recommendation of Approval of Amendment to Colorado Mesa University Two-Year Cash Funded Capital Program List – *Lauren Gilliland*
- C. Degree Authorization Act: Recommendation for Authorization of the William Tennent School of Theology as a Religious Training Institution/Seminary – *Heather DeLange*  
Approval of Program Plans for Fiscal Year 2020-21 Capital Requests – *Lauren Gilliland*

Commissioner Colon moved to approve consent items A through C. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tucker and passed unanimously.

### IV. ACTION ITEMS

**ADDED:** Adoption of Prop CC Resolution – Commissioner Sarah Hughes presented the Prop CC Resolution developed by the commissioners. After some discussion, Commissioner Hughes moved that the second “Whereas” clause in the resolution be stricken from the document. Commissioner Colon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The resolution is attached to these minutes as part of the record.

The motion to adopt the resolution was made by Commissioner Hughes and seconded by Commissioner Colon and passed unanimously.

- A. Fiscal Year 2020-21 Student Budget Parameters – *Emily Burns and Emma Fedorchuk*. CDHE presented the proposed Student Budget Parameters for the 2020-21 fiscal year. These guidelines are used by financial aid administrators in determining cost of attendance for students at their respective institutions. This Cost of attendance is in turn used to determine the amount of need-based financial aid an eligible student can be awarded.



Commissioner Tucker moved to approve the item and Commissioner Gannett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

~~**B. Revision of 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**~~ This agenda item was removed to allow for further review before consideration by the commission.

**C. Funding Allocation Formula Revision and November 1 Budget Request** – Jason Schrock, Chief Financial Officer; Emily Burns, Senior Finance Analyst; Emma Fedorchuk, Budget and Finance Analyst, CDHE provided an update on the revisions to the funding formula. The presentation was accompanied by the slides presentation entitled, “Funding Allocation Formula Revision and November 1 Budget Request.” They explained that the new proposed formula will need to allocate all state funding to higher education. Given that the new proposed formula that has been developed over the course of the summer and fall had been designed to allocate just new state funding, further evaluation of the formula is necessary to allocate increasing portions of base funding. Additional metrics and components will need to be incorporated into the formula to make it viable. Staff discussed the new timeline for formula development. The goal is for the formula to be finalized in the upcoming legislative session.

Staff also explained the new approach the Governor’s office has taken regarding the revenue sources available to cover core minimum costs for institutions in the annual budget request. Rather than limiting revenue to state funding and resident tuition increases, the Governor’s office is having non-resident graduate tuition, as well as resident and non-resident graduate tuition revenue, be used as revenue sources to cover institutions’ cost increases. Staff explained that the revenue assumptions for the budget request may not be feasible for certain institutions given tuition market conditions.

Staff also discussed the “current law formula,” otherwise known as the 1319 formula. Because the new proposed formula has not yet been established in statute, the 1319 formula is included in the annual budget request for state funding. FY 2020-21 represents the first year in which the guardrails that prevent large volatility in funding amounts are no longer required in statute, which can result in large swings in state support under the formula. Staff also discussed the changes which have been proposed to the 1319 formula, including the re-introduction of an under-represented minority weighting in both COF and performance, as well as the removal of non-resident completions from the



performance metrics. Staff also acknowledged how the 1319 formula can reward volume, which disadvantages small institutions.

Staff discussed the most recent iteration of the proposed formula. The formula was designed to be simple, transparent, and clearly aligned with Master Plan goals. Given that base funding, not just new funding, will now need to be allocated through this formula, staff communicated that additional metrics would need to be developed to allow for a greater degree of stability in the formula allocations.

The Commission discussed the path forward for the formula. Various scenarios and concepts were discussed, including a robust discussion of “base funding amounts.” The Commission discussed how the Department’s current contract with a research and analytics firm can be best utilized to allow better understanding of the concept of base funding. Staff fielded questions from commissioners regarding the relationship between funding amounts allocated through a formula and tuition revenue, as well as broader questions surrounding the purpose and philosophy of the formula. Several commissioners and advisors raised concerns that a high degree of formula volatility could have negative impacts on institutional operations as well as students.

The Commission adopted a resolution on the formula at the end of the discussion. The resolution reads as follows:

Whereas, The Commission is required to provide a funding allocation formula and budget recommendation by November 1, 2019

Whereas, additional time is required by the Commission to finalize such a formula and budget, however, the commission is supportive of principle-based approach consistent with the Master Plan

Now therefore, it is resolved by the Commission that:

- (a) The Commission supports an allocation formula this is consistent with the Master Plan and values completions, equity and graduation rates and improvements in those rates
- (b) That such final formula has predictability and reliability for institutions, families and students and drive affordability

Commissioner Tucker moved that the resolution be adopted. Commissioner Buescher seconded the motion. The Funding Allocation Formula Resolution was adopted by unanimous vote.

- D. CCHE Policy for Educator Loan Forgiveness Program – Mr. Crispin and Ms. Burns** provided a presentation on the new Educator Loan Forgiveness Program, and the working Policy that will guide the program and its materials, such as the Guidelines, Application Packet, FAQs, and other materials. They also provided



information on their plans for the selection process and a general timeline for implementation.

Chair McGimpsey moved that the Policy for the program be adopted. Commissioner Tucker seconded the motion. The Educator Loan Forgiveness Program Policy was adopted by unanimous vote.

## V. Commission Initiatives

**A. Open Educational Resources (OER) Updates & Review of Annual Report –** Spencer Ellis (CDHE), OER Council Chair, Brittany Dudek (CCCS), and Lobna Alsrraj (CDHE) presented to the Commission on the current progress of the CDHE OER initiative. Staff reviewed the current progress of the program through highlighting progress toward goals of building awareness and community around open educational resources and open education practices in Colorado. Staff highlighted the initial cost savings to students (\$3.4 million) and the return on the investment of the state legislature (6 times return) for the Commission. Staff noted current findings from the [2019 Report](#), and talked about the recommendations which include: Building structure, Building Culture and Building Evidence

The Commission prompted staff to continue pursuits and consider further transparency in the data reporting process as well as consideration of furthering the strategic connections and opportunities that could compound and sustain the work beyond the provisions of the bill from 2018. Staff asked the Commission to join in as thought partners considering sustainability as a major point of longevity for the innovation work at the CDHE.

**B. Equity Toolkit: for Inclusive Teaching and Learning –** Ms. Banker provided a presentation on the the recently published equity toolkit on inclusive teaching and learning. Funded by the Talent, Innovation and Equity Grant (TIE) from Lumina Foundation, CDHE officially launched the toolkit on September 25, 2019. The toolkit is available at <http://masterplan.highered.colorado.gov/equitytoolkit/>. The toolkit is intended first on faculty development in three specific areas and is part of the department's broader goals to support equity in educational attainment for Coloradans.

The project to create the equity toolkit for inclusive teaching and learning was led by Co-Chairs of the TIE Steering Committee, Dr. Brenda Allen, former Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Colorado Denver and the Anschutz Medical Campus, and Quill Phillips, College Equity Officer at Community College of Aurora and CEO of QP Equity and Inclusion Consulting, who curated the inclusive teaching resources available in the toolkit. The full TIE Steering Committee members provided ongoing input and insights into make the toolkit the most relevant resource possible. Additionally, Brandon Bishop, a current Policy Analyst with SHEEO, conducted hours of research on behalf of this project. The Department thanks the



faculty and staff across the state who shared resources and insights with the research team.

Drawing from evidence-based best practices, the equity toolkit is organized in three categories: Engaging in Ongoing Self-Inquiry, Creating and Maintaining a Culturally Relevant Classroom Community, and Designing and Implementing an Inclusive Course.

The presentation was an informational update, so Ms. Banker did not make any recommendations; however, Ms. Banker reiterated that the Department staff should assist the Commission in promotion and awareness of these resources and understand how to continue building this resource beyond the TIE grant to further support Master Plan goals.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Buescher.  
The meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.







## CCHE Resolution in Support of Colorado Prop CC

Adopted October 24, 2019

**Resolution in Support of Colorado Proposition CC** - a voter referendum to change the constitutional limitation on state fiscal year spending to redirect existing tax funding to higher education, K-12 schools, and transportation. If the measure passes, it is estimated that well over \$300 million would be distributed equally among each of these areas over fiscal years 2020 and 2021.

**WHEREAS**, the people of Colorado have been asked to vote this fall on Proposition CC, to decide whether to allow the State of Colorado, without raising taxes, to retain excess revenue it would otherwise be required by law to refund to Colorado taxpayers under the Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR); and

**WHEREAS**, despite Colorado's booming economy and population growth, Colorado ranks 43rd in % of Taxable Resources Spent on Education, 41st in per-pupil spending adjusted for regional cost differences, and 48th in the country in funding of post-secondary education; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado spends \$2,703 less annually per K-12 student than the national average which is below some of the poorest states in the country like Alabama and Mississippi, and state funding for higher education is 9.2 percent lower than it was in 2008 at the start of the great recession; and

**WHEREAS**, the Colorado's disinvestment in higher education over the past two decades has shifted the burden to Colorado students and families as the state's share of funding decreased from covering 68% of total costs in 2000 to 33% in 2016, thereby making college out of reach for too many Coloradans; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado's K-12 schools and its institutions of higher education must work together to provide a seamless continuum of learning, increase graduation rates, solve the k-12 teacher shortage, increase access to higher education for students of color, and prepare Colorado's students for tomorrow's economy and democracy; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado's Commission on Higher Education's goal to achieve 66 percent credential attainment by 2025 as outlined in its masterplan ***Colorado Rises: Advancing Education and Talent Development*** will be achieved by investing in projects to erase the equity gap, improve student success, increase affordability, and incent innovation; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado must invest in the educational attainment of all its citizens to better prepare students for changing workforce demands and to maintain Colorado's high quality of life, its vibrant economy, and its engaged citizenry; and

**WHEREAS**, a strong system of higher education is essential to a skilled workforce, a strong and growing economy, and global competitiveness for the industries and businesses that are Colorado's backbone; and





**WHEREAS**, it is our responsibility as a Commission to advocate for Colorado’s campuses, students, faculties, and the advancement of higher education, and the Colorado Fair Campaign Practices Act authorizes the Commission on Higher Education, as a governing body, to formally take a position with respect to an election question by passing a resolution urging citizens to vote for or against the question; and

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education hereby supports and endorses the passage of Proposition CC to allow the state, without raising taxes, to retain excess revenue it is currently required to refund under existing state law in order to provide additional financial support to public schools, institutions of higher education, and transportation projects.

