

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
Civic Center Plaza, Suite 1940
May 6, 2016**

I. OPENING BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Luis Colon called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

A. Attendance

Vice Chair Colon, Commissioners John Anderson, Maia Babbs, Renny Fagan, Jeanette Garcia, Dick Kaufman, Vanecia Kerr, Tom McGimpsey, Paula Sandoval and BJ Scott attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Wayne Artis, Tyrel Jacobsen, Steve Kreidler, Gretchen Morgan and Melissa Wagner. Advisor Barbara Morris attended via conference call.

B. Minutes

Commissioner Scott moved to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2016 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGimpsey and passed unanimously.

C. Chair, Vice Chair, Commissioners and Advisor Reports

- Student Success & Academic Affairs Standing Committee - Commissioner Anderson, Chair, updated the Commission on the committee's activities.
- Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee – Commissioner BJ Scott, Chair, updated the Commission on the committee's activities.
- Commissioner Anderson reported that he attended Ft. Lewis College's graduation ceremony. Lt. Governor Garcia gave the Commencement speech.

D. Acting Executive Director Report

Jennifer Sobanet, Acting Executive Director, reported the following:

- On June 9th, there will be a USA Funds breakfast, featuring a presentation by Brandon Busted, for Commissioners, CEOs and other stakeholders at the Denver Sheraton.
- The Annual CCHE Retreat will be held on August 4th and 5th at Adams State University in Alamosa.
- DHE has three goals for the Governor’s initiative “Vision 2018 – Grow the Middle Class”:
 - Close the attainment gap at least by half by 2025
 - Make college affordable/”Don’t Lose Ground” on current graduation numbers
 - Increase the number of Colorado adults who are in college or have a postsecondary credential, certificate or degree.
- It is reporting season again. Moving forward, the Research and Data Team will be creating a dialogue with CCHE and not just reporting.
- The National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) will vote on Colorado’s renewal at its next board meeting. Currently there are 38 Colorado institutions participating, 22 public (11 of which are community colleges) and 16 private institutions. SARA is a national effort to standardize the regulations for institutions offering distance education courses and programs.

E. Public Comment

Several members of the Colorado Education Association (CEA) testified against Commission approval of the Relay Graduate School of Education agenda item. Many of the concerns expressed centered on programmatic design, the institutions alignment with non-traditional public schools and faculty qualifications.

II. Consent Items

- A. Recommend Approval of Bachelor of Science Degrees in Environmental Engineering and Computer Engineering at Metropolitan State University of Denver – Dr. Ian Macgillivray**
- B. Recommend Approval of Master of Science in Computational Linguistics, Analytics, Search and Informatics at University of Colorado Boulder – Dr. Ian Macgillivray**
- C. Recommend Approval of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Bilingual Education Specialist Endorsement at the University of Colorado Denver – Dr. Robert Mitchell**
- D. Recommend Approval of Master of Science in Applied Sport Psychology at Adams State University – Dr. Ian Macgillivray**
- E. Degree Authorization Act – Request for the Renewal of Authorization for SUM Bible College and Theological Seminary – Heather DeLange**

Commissioner Kaufman moved to approve consent items A through E. The motion was seconded by Commissioner McGimpsey and unanimously passed.

III. Presentations

In order to provide context to the Commissioners as they embark on their summer work to develop the fiscal year (FY) 2017-18, budget request staff organized three presentations ([hyperlink to the presentations](#)):

- *National Higher Education Finance Landscape*
Andy Carlson, Senior Policy Analyst
State Higher Education Officers Association
- *State Economic and Budget Outlook*
Eric Scheminske, Deputy Director
Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting
- *Institutional Perspectives on Higher Education Finance and Evolving Business Models*
Steve Kreidler, Vice President for Administration & Finance
Metropolitan State University of Denver

Following the presentations, Diane Duffy, CFO, facilitated a conversation with the Commission on their reaction to the information presented.

IV. Discussion Items

- A. FY17-18 Budget Development Process and Calendar – Todd Haggerty, Tonya Covarrubias, Andrew Rauch, Cat Olukotun** –Todd Haggerty, Lead Finance Analyst, provided the Commission with an overview of the proposed tasks and timeline associated with the development of the annual General Fund request, funding allocations to governing boards, tuition recommendations, financial aid allocations, and capital construction priority list for fiscal year (FY) 2017-18. Mr. Haggerty noted that it is staff's goal that aligning the major elements of higher education financing policy – *appropriations, tuition, capital construction, and financial aid* – will ensure that the Commission's fiscal policies are aligned to address college affordability and student access and success. Mr. Haggerty also asked the Commission to begin thinking about alternative revenue sources to help the Commission reach Master Plan Goal #4; Develop resources, through increases in state funding, that will allow public institutions of higher education to meet projected enrollment demands while promoting affordability, accessibility and efficiency.
- B. Legislative Update** – Kachina Weaver, Chief Policy Officer, provided an update on the status of legislation affecting higher education that was introduced during the 2016 legislative session. Ms. Weaver will provide the Commission with a comprehensive list of enacted legislation impacting higher education following the conclusion of the session on May 11th.

C. Concurrent Enrollment Report - Michael Vente, Research and Information Policy Analyst, presented this year's Concurrent Enrollment report. This is a joint report that prepared with significant input from CDE. Mr. Vente outlined several highlights from the report.

- Nearly 30 percent of Colorado 11th- and 12th-graders, 35,713 high school students, participated in concurrent enrollment, ASCENT or other dual enrollment programs in 2014-15. Concurrent enrollment continues to see sustained increases in participation, up 13 percent statewide.
- Compared to the prior year, participation in concurrent enrollment programs increased dramatically among Hispanic students (26 percent increase), African American students (30 percent increase), and Native American/Alaskan Native students (39 percent increase).
- A large majority of the concurrent enrollment hours taken by students, 93 percent, were passed in 2014-15. This is an improvement from the previous year's complete pass rate of 89 percent.
- Statewide, 94 percent of school districts and 84 percent of high schools offer concurrent enrollment programs.

Commissioner Anderson asked why Concurrent Enrollment programs were not present in the remaining 6 percent of school districts statewide. Carl Einhaus, Director of Student Affairs at DHE, explained that there were many factors that limited the delivery of Concurrent Enrollment programs in rural districts. These included a lack of teachers with sufficient credentials and financial constraints on rural districts, which cannot afford the district contribution to Concurrent Enrollment.

Commissioner Babbs asked how many students the state should aim to enroll in Concurrent Enrollment programs. Acting Executive Director Sobanet stated that reaching 50 percent of Colorado and 50 percent of 11th and 12th graders participating in Concurrent Enrollment would be a significant accomplishment.

V. Action Items

A. Recommend Approval of Charters for the Student Success and Academic Affairs Standing Committee and Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee – Diane Duffy and Tim Flanagan, Chief Student Success and Academic Affairs Officer presented the Charters for the Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing CCHE committee and the Student Success & Academic Affairs Standing CCHE Committee.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve the Charters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kaufman and unanimously passed.

B. Tuition Policy - Todd Haggerty, Lead Financial Analyst, brought forward the recommended changes to the Commission's Tuition Policy. Mr. Haggerty summarized the Commission's year long process to develop new tuition policies and the impact of the General Assembly's actions on tuition. He noted the changes to the policy when it was first introduced to the Commission as a

discussion item at the February meeting and responded to a question from Commissioner Garcia on when Governing Boards will finalize their respective tuition decisions for the coming year.

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve the Tuition Policy. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kaufman and unanimously passed.

C. Recommend Approval of the Relay Graduate School of Education – Dr.

Robert Mitchell, Academic Policy Officer for Educator Preparation, reviewed the process leading to approval. This progression includes approval from the Department for operating authority, approval from the Colorado State Board of Education for the content being taught in the program and final approval by the Commissioners for the institution to provide educator preparation services in the state.

Commissioners Fagan and Babbs requested clarification regarding the role of the Department of Education within program review and how the Department of Higher Education reviews the institution's ability to link the content being taught in the educator preparation program and how this knowledge is demonstrated in the fieldwork components. Kachina Weaver provided additional information regarding established Departmental policy regarding this process and the connection to relevant statute.

Advisor Artis asked Dr. Mitchell if there would be reports on the successes or not of Relay graduates, if there is approval, to provide checks on how well it is working. Mr. Mitchell replied there would be a site visit sooner than May 2018 to look at teachers being hired, how they're evaluated and whether they stay within the system.

Mr. Randall Peterson, representing CEA, claimed that Section (2)(c) of CRS 23-11121 is unclear with the statutory interpretation and should be changed. Mr. Peterson suggested the statute be rewritten or get a legal opinion through Legislative Services. Commissioner Kaufman responded that whatever the interpretation of Subsection (c) is, the background work has been done either by CDHE staff or by the Department of Education. He did see any need to do it again. Further, the CCHE would either have the legislature rewrite the statute which cannot happen this year or if there is going to be a legal opinion, CCHE is part of the executive branch and would have to go to the attorney general, not legislative services.

Commissioner Kaufman moved to approve the Relay Graduate School of Education. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fagan and unanimously passed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm