

**Minutes of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) Meeting
CSU Pueblo
September 1, 2016**

I. OPENING BUSINESS

Chairman Monte Moses called the meeting to order at 1:00pm

A. Attendance

Chairman Moses, Commissioners John Anderson, Maia Babbs, Mary Beth Buescher, Renny Fagan, Cassie Gannett, Jeanette Garcia, Vanecia Kerr, Tom McGimpsey and Paula Sandoval attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were CCHE Advisory Committee members Wayne Artis, Mark Cavanaugh, Barbara Morris and Melissa Wagner.

B. Minutes

Commissioner Babbs moved to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2016 CCHE meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buescher and passed unanimously.

C. Welcome and Presentation

Dr. Lesley DiMare, President of CSU Pueblo, welcomed the Commissioners to the campus and gave a presentation on how the campus, a Hispanic Serving Institute, promotes diversity and inclusion.

The highlights included:

- Strategic financial aid packaging
- Merit scholarships
- Curriculum development
- Staffing initiatives
- Community partnerships

D. Executive Director Report

Acting Executive Director Donna Lynne advised the Commission that she had been traveling around the state visiting institutions since the August Retreat for her own education. Some of these visits were to present Colorado Opportunity Scholarship awards. Lt. Governor Lynne noted that there were campus free speech concerns voiced by some of the institution's CEOs. She also reported on a number of tasks the department has been working on since the retreat, such as the

preparation of the DHE legislative agenda, the higher education budget for FY2017-18 and submission for the Governor's State of the State address.

The Lt. Governor also informed the Commission of the private, for-profit school, ITT, was closing.

E. Public Comment

Mr. Frank Waterous, Senior Policy Analyst at the Bell Policy Center, addressed two of the items on the agenda: 1) the Definition of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth item, which the Center endorses. They believe it can break the cycle of poverty by moving to a more stable future by obtaining a college education; and 2) the Master Plan discussion. Given the Center's focus on post-traditional adult students, they were pleased to have staff recognize that overall success is dependent upon post-traditional adult learners in the state. He urged staff to be mindful about how policies and programs in all areas address the special talents and needs of the adult student

II. Consent Items

- A. Degree Authorization Act – Recommendation for the Renewal of Provisional Authorization – Heather DeLange**
- B. Degree Authorization Act – Fox Institute for Creation Spirituality – Request for Authorization as a Seminary/Religious Training Institution - Heather DeLange**
- C. Recommend Approval of FTE Reporting Policy, Red Line Edit - Emily Burns**
- D. Recommend Approval of Minor Changes and Updates to the Current and New Admission Policies – Carl Einhaus**
- E. Recommend Approval of Ph.D. in Communication at Colorado State University – Ian Macgillivray**
- F. Recommend Approval of COF Eligibility and Student FTE for Extended Studies Programs for FY2017 – Ian Macgillivray**
- G. FY 2017-2018 Student Budget Parameters – Andrew Rauch**

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

III. Presentation

- A. Five-Year Review of the CCHE Master Plan –**Department Staff provided a presentation recapping the current Mater Plan goals and Colorado's progress with them. Commissioners discussed the current goals and affirmed their support for them and that they continue to be relevant and appropriate, understanding that some of the data around them will likely change as the revisiting of the Plan moves forward. Diane Duffy shared a graphic and an explanation as to how the work of the Department's Strategic Priority Initiates and the institutional work are complementary and supportive of meeting the Master Plan goals. Kachina Weaver shared the "thoughts" from the Commissioners captured from the retreat and asked Commissioners to review and share back anything that is missing or needs editing. In addition, Ms. Weaver shared again the outline of the process that will be undertaken to revisit the Plan – Commission meetings, performance

contract review and updating, standing committee work, outreach to stakeholders – as well as the timeframe, culminating in a June 2017 action item.

IV. Action Item

A. Exonerated Persons Tuition Waiver - Andrew Rauch presented this item to the Commission. Under statute, C.R.S 23-1-132, the Colorado Commission on Higher (CCHE) is required to adopt a policy providing exonerated persons and their eligible children a waiver of tuition and any mandatory fees associated with attendance by all state-supported institutions of higher education. The statute required that a policy be adopted by September 1, 2013, but due to other requirements, there was a delay in developing it. All state-supported institutions shall develop a policy and meet the annual reporting requirement. There was some discussion on the definition of custodial child, but that definition is defined elsewhere in law.

Commissioner McGimpsey moved to approve tuition waiver. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Buescher and unanimously passed.

V. Discussion Items

A. Degree Authorization Act – Suggested Amendments to CCHE Policy, Section I, Part J – Inta Morris presented the Commissioners with the suggested amendments to the CCHE Policy regarding the Degree Authorization Act. The Commission will take action on this item at the October 24th CCHE meeting.

B. Definition of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth – Andrew Rauch informed the Commissioners that House Bill 16-1100 provides an avenue for certain students to prove they are residents of Colorado for tuition purposes when the traditional mechanisms are not available to them. Specifically, the legislation (1) allows “unaccompanied homeless youth” to be considered “qualified persons” for the purposes of determining their own domicile; and (2) requires the Commission to adopt a definition of “unaccompanied homeless youth, at-risk of homelessness, and self-supporting” to serve as guidance for institutional tuition classification officers. However, many students who would meet a definition of unaccompanied homeless youth are being classified as “qualified persons” for meeting the definition of emancipated minor.

Under Colorado’s tuition classification guidelines (1) “qualified persons” are those who are able to determine their own domicile for the purposes of becoming a resident student and receiving resident tuition and (2) for individuals under the age of 22, their domicile is tied to where their parents live. House Bill 16-1100 allows individuals who are under the age of 22 and who meet the definition of “unaccompanied homeless youth” to be considered “qualified persons”. Further, the legislation provides a list of individuals that are able to verify if a person is an “unaccompanied homeless youth”. These individuals may use the McKinney-Vento Act definition or the definition adopted by the CCHE.

Commissioner McGimpsey asked for some examples to be brought forward on the application of the definition and how tuition classification would be impacted. Staff agreed to bring this next time.

Commissioner Gannett asked for more information about what other states are doing. Staff will provide information on other states.

Commissioners Buescher, Sandoval, and Garcia focused on the application of the definition of self-supporting. The questions centered on how to disentangle the idea of self-supporting from the idea of homelessness, and then how to apply the compound definition that the Commission is asked to adopt. Staff explained that the law requires a single definition for “unaccompanied homeless youth, at risk of homelessness, and self-supporting”, and that staff worked with the AG’s office to develop a jumping off point for the discussion. Institutions have some flexibility in which definition in the law they chose to follow as the McKinney-Vento act is already referenced specifically in the law. This definition is the standard for education. Additionally staff explained the process for tuition classification, and that this is merely a way for students to qualify as a “qualified person”. The tuition classification process is a layer beyond what the commission is tasked with under HB 16-1100, and the focus on this definition, staff agreed, should be on the application of a definition.

Commissioner Fagan asked about the legislative intent for drafting the bill, and asked that the focus be on a consistent definition that can be applied throughout the legislation so to not make it more complicated than it already is. The history of the bill draft was discussed and staff agreed that the legislation should be consistent.

Staff will return with a revised definition after other stakeholders are involved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm