

## SECTION VII

### Innovation

#### **1.00 Introduction**

This policy creates an innovation framework for public higher education institutions of higher education to seek authorization from the commission to engage in CCHE approved experimentations not otherwise authorized in existing CCHE policy, collect data regarding efficacy of the innovation, and advance policy recommendations for future adoption. This policy requires that public higher education institutions of higher education provide assurances regarding financial implications, compliance with existing federal and state law and governing board policies, and protection of students' rights and responsibilities.

#### **2.00 Authority**

C.R.S. 23-1-108(1). The commission, after consultation with governing boards of institutions and as a part of the master planning process, shall have the authority to: (a) Establish a policy-based and continuing system-wide planning, programming and coordination process to effect the best use of available resources;"

#### **3.00 Procedures**

At least 45 days prior to proposed implementation, public higher education institutions of higher education that seek authorization from the Commission to engage in policy innovation shall submit to department staff a proposal that includes the following:

- (1) Overview of proposed innovation
- (2) Specific policy name/number for which the innovation is aligned (and statutory reference, if applicable)
- (3) Policy goals the innovation is intended to address (including alignment with the State Master Plan for Colorado)
- (4) Existing research or evidence base for proposed innovation
- (5) Proposed length of innovation (including start and end dates)
- (6) Proposed data collection and evaluation process
- (7) Assurances that proposed innovation does not violate current state or federal law and is in compliance with all relevant governing board policies (proposals that require legislative action may be considered, but will require additional review)
- (8) Assurances that the proposed innovation will not negatively impact student success (e.g., time to degree, ability to transfer, detrimental effects on financial aid eligibility, Student Bill of Rights).

Staff will evaluate proposals based on above criteria (when necessary, consulting with relevant legislative and legal staff to ensure compliance with federal and state law), and will recommend approval to the Commission based on the quality of the innovation and its potential for system-wide impact. Following Commission approval, staff will execute a memorandum of

understanding (MOU) detailing the terms, conditions and limitations of the policy innovation based on the criteria outlined above.

HISTORY: CCHE Agenda Item IV, A– October 22, 2020