

Colorado Commission on Higher Education
Standing Committee on Student & Academic Affairs
May 8, 2015
10:45 am – 11:45 am
CDHE Offices, 1560 Broadway, Suite 1600, Denver, CO 80202

Notes

1. Attendance

Commissioners Moses, Garcia, and Anderson were in attendance. The following DHE staff were present: Rhonda Epper, Ian MacGillivray, and Carl Einhaus. Michael Lightner from the University of Colorado System office was also present.

2. Organizational/Housekeeping Items

Epper reminded Commissioners of dates for future committee meetings throughout 2015: August 4, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon (conference call); October 29, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon (University of Northern Colorado, prior to CCHE meeting); and December 3, 11:00 am – 12:00 noon (Red Rocks Community College, prior to CCHE meeting). It was noted that there will be a committee report at the beginning of CCHE meetings and at least one commissioner should be prepared to report on behalf of the committee. The purpose of this committee is to enable a sub-set of commissioners to become better informed on issues related to academic and student affairs. When issues are then brought to the full CCHE, the issues will have been vetted and thoroughly discussed in advance.

3. Prior Learning Assessment

Epper reviewed the development of the current PLA agenda item as it evolved since the February 13 CCHE meeting. Explained the compromise position with common cut scores for general education, and differentiated scores for the major. Commissioners expressed an interest in knowing what data exist and what institutions will use to substantiate a decision to go with a higher cut score for the major. Epper explained this will happen in Phase 2. Commissioner Moses suggested we adopt a philosophy in terms of how the CCHE views PLA risk. For example, if we adopt lower cut scores, there is potentially greater risk that student will not succeed in next course. Do we let student assume that risk in hopes of getting them to degree completion faster? This is in line with current remedial reform movements, where student is placed in college level course with co-requisite support if needed.

Commissioner Garcia suggested having a K-12 representative on the Constituent Review Team (CRT), like someone in a leadership position with Colorado School Counselor Association. Also, balance rural and urban on the CRT. She expressed concern about instances where the major has a higher cut score than a gtPathways course but the

course applies to both and then the student having to make up those credits when the gtPathways course credit doesn't apply to the major. *Here is a possible scenario:

1. Student gets a 3 on the AP BIO exam.
 2. Community college grants credit for BIO 111.
 3. Student takes and passes next course in sequence, BIO 112.
 4. Student transfers to a 4-year institutions and declares biology as major.
 5. 4-year institution sees PLA credit for BIO 111 based on AP score of 3, but requires at least a 4 for the major, makes student take another BIO course to make up those credits. Or, worse, makes student retake their own version of BIO 111.
- Commissioner Garcia asked for data on this. Does this happen?

4. Web-based Admissions Tool

Einhaus provided a demonstration of the current prototype of the Web-based Admissions Tool. It is currently being pilot tested with counselors and some high school students in the GEAR UP program. It is expected to roll out later this year – September. Commissioner Garcia suggested that proprietary schools could be charged a fee if they wanted to appear in the search results.

5. gtPathways update from Fac-to-Fac conference

This item was deferred until the next meeting.