

SBCCOE Meeting- March 2024

Minutes

March 13, 2024

Virtual Meeting via WebEx

I. REGULAR SESSION CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mascareñaz called the **March 13, 2024**, regular meeting of the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education to order at **11:50am MDT**.

A. Roll Call

Mary Reeves, State Board Coordinator, called the roll. With the attendance noted below, a quorum was reached, and the meeting proceeded.

Attendance

Present:

Members: Rollie Heath, Tatiana Hernandez, Catlyn Keenan, Landon Mascareñaz, Karen McNeil-Miller, Terrance McWilliams, Yolanda Ortega, Brad Rupert, Cathy Shull, Steven Trujillo, Hector Vargas

Absent:

Member: Ross Dueber

B. Pledge of Allegiance

Terrance McWilliams, Vice Chair, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. CCCS Land Acknowledgement

Rollie Heath, Immediate Past Chair read the CCCS Land Acknowledgement.

CCCS Land Acknowledgement

The Colorado Community College System acknowledges, with respect, the land we are presenting from today is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Apache, Arapaho, Cheyenne, Pueblo, Shoshone, Kiowa, and Ute Nations, tribes, and peoples. This land was also a site of trade gathering and healing for numerous other Native tribes. We recognize the Indigenous peoples as original stewards of this land and all the relatives within it. As these words of acknowledgment are spoke and heard, the ties Nations have to their traditional lands are renewed and reaffirmed.

D. Approve Minutes of February 14, 2024

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Minutes of the February 14, 2024 meeting of the State Board.

Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Cathy Shull. The motion passed.

E. Approve Agenda for March 13, 2024

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Agenda for the March 13, 2024 meeting of the State Board.

Motion moved by Rollie Heath and motion seconded by Yolanda Ortega. The motion passed.

II. CONSENT AGENDA APPROVALS

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda containing the three items noted below.

1. Approval of Pikes Peak State College Advisory Council Nominee: Dr. Tatiana Bailey for Appointment to a Full Term from March 1, 2024 through February 29, 2028
2. Approval of Pikes Peak State College Advisory Council Nominee: Mr. Ron Fitch for Appointment to a Full Term from March 1, 2024 through February 29, 2028
3. Approval of Pueblo Community College Advisory Council Nominee: Ms. Sherri Baca for Appointment to a Full Term from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2028.

Motion moved by Karen McNeil-Miller and motion seconded by Terrance McWilliams. The motion passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Mascareñaz asked the State Board Coordinator if anyone had signed up to address the Board. Hearing that no member of the public had signed up, the Chair continued the meeting.

IV. REPORTS

A. Chancellor's Report, Joe Garcia

- Thanked President White and the staff at NJC for hosting the Board in Sterling for the February 14 meeting.
- Reiterated what was reported by the CCCS lobbyists that the next couple of weeks will be critical as the Joint Budget Committee finalizes the higher education appropriation.
- Reported that the Senate Education committee held a confirmation hearing for Brad Rupert, Yolanda Ortega, Tatiana Hernandez, Steven Trujillo, and reappointed member Cathy Shull on February 26, 2024, and that all five did a terrific job before the committee. The committee recommended and referred their confirmation to the full Senate where they were confirmed on the consent agenda a few days later.

- Mentioned that at the November 2023 SBCCOE meeting, a panel of employers from Clean Tech and Climate Resilient Technologies were featured to talk about current and future workforce needs. Reported that in February, he attended a meeting with Senator Hickenlooper to celebrate an inaugural \$15 million-dollar National Science Foundation (NSF) Award to the Colorado-Wyoming Climate Resilience Engine. CCCS is a partner in this collaborative initiative focused on driving innovation in climate resiliency and sustainability across the Colorado-Wyoming region. Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce, Mike Macklin, is actively engaged. Noted that this is all part of the federal CHIPS and Science Act of 2022.
- Observed that in November 2023, the Board made a mid-year investment from our system's reserves totaling about \$3.3 million for a package of investments called *Strengthening our Foundation: Investments for High Impact Initiatives*. The investments were made in targeted areas that will benefit from the utilization of one-time funding over no more than three years and were deemed necessary to successfully complete several major projects and minimize delays due to the lack of staffing and mitigate risk of CCCS underperforming. The approved investments were made in the following areas: Rural College Consortium, Colorado Skills Institute, Operations Support to Deliver on Federal and State Investments and Expectations, Program and Curriculum Operations, and Information Technology Resources. Reported that the first quarterly briefing with the system office leads in each of these areas was held. Pleased to report to the Board that plans are in place and work is progressing. Committed to updating the Board quarterly on progress with an annual progress report.
- Shared that he is in the process of selecting the next Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs and anticipates an announcement soon. Also mentioned that three candidates will be visiting and interviewing to be the next President of Pueblo Community College.
- Thanked Dr. Michele Haney and Red Rocks Community College for kicking off the statewide listening tour to inform the development of the next strategic plan. Reported the next few stops on the Strategic Plan Listening Tour are Community College of Aurora (CCA), Arapahoe Community College (ACC), Pikes Peak State College (PPSC), Morgan Community College (MCC), and Northeastern Junior College (NJC).
- Stated that the April SBCCOE meeting will be held in person at Community College of Denver (CCD) followed by the CCCS Student Excellence Awards Luncheon.

B. Audit Committee Report, Terrance McWilliams, Audit Committee Chair

- Reported on the Progress of the Audit Plan including:
 - Pueblo Community College (PCC) External and Internal Audits
 - Pikes Peak State College (PPSC) requested process audit
 - Quarterly Compliance Audits
 - Career and Technical Act Audits
 - Perkins Monitoring Reviews
 - Office for Civil Rights Monitoring

C. State Faculty Advisory Council (SFAC), Dr. Catlyn Keenan, SFAC Representative

- Shared that the Colorado Online @ Consortium continues to be disruptive and contentious. Problems include students not having access to classes they enrolled for, instructors being assigned to teach very late, including a couple cases after classes began, materials being lost, and colleges having trouble planning past the current semester. Some colleges picked up a significant number of online classes this semester but will not receive the same course assignments in Fall. This means that instructors were hired and will not have courses or will have to go through the hiring process at another college to continue being employed. Differences in instructor pay among the colleges also continues to be a topic of conversation.
- Noted that SFAC is forming a taskforce to investigate a recommendation for a formal policy on Academic Freedom. This will likely result in a new Board Policy, and corresponding System Procedure. However, it may also involve a Board Resolution. Academic freedom is vital to education. It is the foundation that allows faculty to leverage their expertise in discipline appropriate ways in order to ensure rigor and high academic standards. Our common course objectives rely on academic freedom. In a historic sense, academic freedom is a founding principle in American education. In Colorado, academic freedom has long been taken for granted and there is also legal precedence for the protection of academic freedom. However, academic freedom has been threatened in a couple of cases in Concurrent Enrollment classes recently. Additionally, just like it is important for the Colorado Community College System to publicly state values around equity and inclusion, SFAC believes that either a resolution or policy around academic freedom needs to be developed.
- Announced that SFAC is forming a taskforce to craft recommendations on faculty morale and retention. Dr. Rachel Harrison of ACC is the chair for this taskforce. It includes both members of SFAC as well as faculty from across the system. They will begin work this spring but continue into fall, hoping to have concrete recommendations by the end of fall semester. These recommendations will be shared with SFAC, the Board, Chancellor, and college presidents.

D. State Student Advisory Council (SSAC), Hector Vargas, Interim SSAC Chair

- Reported that the SSAC group had an open session with Dr. Michael Schulman, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and another with Rhonda Martinez, Associate Director for Financial Aid to have them answer various questions from the SSAC members.
- Discussed having a student from SSAC join the Equity and Inclusion Council with Dr. Tina Moore, Senior Project Manager for Academic and Student Affairs.

E. Chair's Report, Dr. Landon Mascareñaz

- Reminded the group of the themes he outlined for the Board at the beginning of the academic year: economic mobility for learners as our North Star, development of a visionary and actionable strategic plan, building a future ready community college system, and a constructive and energized board.

- **Economic Mobility as our North Star.** Shared that he was involved with a project at the University of Denver Josef Korbel School of International Studies called the “Colorado Project: A Strategy for Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth” which sets forth a strategy and a set of recommendations for an inclusive economy for all of Colorado. The report lays out what is possible in Colorado for a larger inclusive economy and is very connected to what we do here in the system. For example, during the work session, Dr. Erjavec talked about stackable credentials and the opportunity they create for pathways to economic mobility. The lobbyists shared an update on the Students Bill of Rights bill that will improve transfer pathways for students and greater opportunities for economic mobility.
- **Actionable Strategic Plan.** I am pleased to see the listening tour move forward and appreciate the work of staff and Keystone Policy Center. Thanked Dr. Haney and RRCC for hosting the first event, and noted it was an incredible turnout from faculty, staff, students. They showed up and named what they love about RRCC and offered many great ideas to move us forward which is invaluable. Thanked board member Rupert for being there and appreciated his representation of his community in that listening moment. Expressed his excitement for the session at CCA today. Invited Board members to attend as many as possible. It is a tremendous opportunity to hear from communities, listen, and understand where we need to move forward collectively.
- **Future Ready CCCS.** Mentioned the Board agenda item on the BAS in Cybersecurity, and the group of CCCS colleges that worked collaboratively together to offer this innovative program which illustrates what it means to be a Future Ready CCCS to meet the current and future needs of Colorado.
- **Constructive and Energized Board.** He shared that he and Vice Chair McWilliams participated in the recent Higher Learning Committee accreditation visit to CCA. It was a great opportunity for the Board leadership to speak directly to the progress at CCA.
- Shared that he recently agreed to Co-chair the Colorado Trustee Network (CTN), a coalition of appointed and elected Trustees of Colorado’s postsecondary education system. He announced that the CTN is hosting a learning event on April 3 and several Presidents will be featured including Dr. Marie DeSanctis to talk about current needs and how trustees can be effective advocates and supporters. He reminded all Board members to be sure and attend.

F. Presidents' Emerging News (Items not included in the Written Reports.)

Dr. Michele Haney, President Red Rocks Community College (RRCC)

- Thanked everyone on the staff, the board, her fellow colleagues, and the Chancellor for the opportunity to work with them for the last 30+ years. As she retires at the end of March 2024 she said, "It's been a great ride, a great journey, and I know you're going to reach the stars, so thank you very, very much and I'll miss you all."

Dr. Kim Zant, President Otero College (OC)

- Reported that she will be presenting at the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) annual conference in Chicago in April. Her topic is, "Probation. No Problem. Surviving and Thriving through an HLC Sanction."

Dr. Mordecai Brownlee, President, Community College of Aurora (CCA)

- Reported that CCA hosted their HLC peer review team over the two previous days and that it was extremely successful. The official findings will come later, but they did provide a summary of their findings which mentioned that the peer review team was amazed at CCA's post pandemic progress. The HLC team shared that they really appreciated the faculty and instructor engagement through the process and the fact that the open forums were so well-attended with no less than 50 people in each forum.
- Announced that CCA received word from Congressman Crow, as well as Senator Bennet and Senator Hickenlooper that the \$850,000 in federal funding for the new STEM Power Mechanic and Applied Technology building was approved.
- Announced that CCA received word that on April 29th and 30th, CCA will be host the White House initiative on Advancing Educational Equity Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans. Plans for that event are in progress.

Dr. Stephanie Fujii, President, Arapahoe Community College

- Reported that the American Association of University Administrators invited her to participate on a panel about leading with kindness. Stated that it was quite an honor to be asked and appreciated the opportunity to share her perspectives on leading with kindness.

V. DISCUSSION and ACTION ITEM APPROVAL

The Board acted upon each item listed below.

- A. Approval of Board Policy 3-65, Professional Development and Sabbatical Leave
Motion:
Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Tatiana Hernandez. The motion passed.
- B. Approval of Offering Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) in Cybersecurity
Motion:
Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Brad Rupert. The motion passed.
- C. Approval of Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Contract Extension Amendment and Associated Spending Authority
Motion:
Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Cathy Shull. The motion passed.
- D. Approval of Community College of Aurora (CCA) Prior Period Ratification of Purchases

Motion:

Motion moved by Terrance McWilliams and motion seconded by Tatiana Hernandez. The motion passed.

- E. Approval of Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act – Perkins State Plan

Motion:

Motion moved by Rollie Heath and motion seconded by Yolanda Ortega. The motion passed.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

Chair Mascareñaz requested a motion to adjourn the meeting of March 13, 2024.

Motion moved by Cathy Shull and motion seconded by Steven Trujillo. The motion passed and the **March 13, 2024** regular meeting of the State Board was adjourned at **12:22pm MDT**.

Final Draft for Approval by SBCCC 01/14/10/24