



**COMMISSION ON THE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE**

**MINUTES  
December 2, 2004**

Present: David Caldwell, Cris de la Torre, Dick Dietz, Marcus Embry, Greg Heald, Jim Keaten, Matt Lang, Kevin Laxalt, Marie Livingston, Vinnie Scalia, Mary Schuttler, Tom Trelogan, and Doug Woody

Absent: Jeff Farmer, Cynthia Galovich, and Dianna Gray

Guest: Matt Gianneschi, CCHE

Dick Dietz called the meeting to order in the absence of Cynthia Galovich.

1. Announcements

Dick Dietz welcomed Matt Gianneschi, Chief Academic Officer for the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Matt introduced himself, mentioning, among other things, that he has a background in academia. Dick then asked the commission members to introduce themselves and identify the areas they represent on the commission.

2. Matt Gianneschi Discussion

Matt presented an overview of the performance contracts required by Senate Bill 189.

1. Access, Success, and Retention

- a. The bill requires the provision of funding to students instead of the institutions.
- b. The performance contracts specify benchmarks for institutions to meet for graduation rates – most institutions are being expected to achieve a 2% increase per year.
- c. They also call for improvements in the area of recruitment, especially of low-income students.

2. Academic Quality (undergraduate)

- a. The performance contracts require institutions to establish a core curriculum of 35-37 credit hours. The requirement of a core curriculum is a part of the Student Bill of Rights; it's the CCHE that has specified that the core is to be a 35-37 credit hour core
- b. The core is to consist of courses approved for inclusion in the State Guaranteed Transfer core. Students will be able to test out of core courses and receive credit for them. The CCHE is still working on this.

3. Funding

- a. The performance contracts specify the ways in which the institutions request funding from the state. Institutions will now send the CCHE their projected costs for the coming year, and the CCHE will then

submit these requests to the Joint Budget Committee for approval. This is also how requests for tuition increases will be handled.

4. Teacher Education
  - a. Students wanting to teach will get assessment training.
  - b. Institutions will share student information with the CCHE regarding teacher education students, and will work with the Colorado Department of Education in tracking students after they start teaching to help institutions in their teacher education programs.
  
5. Other State Needs (Including Graduate Programs)
  - a. The performance contracts also highlight particular areas in which the institutions have special needs, for example UNC's would look at the special needs of the Nursing, Special Education and Teacher Education programs.

The CCHE is in the process of negotiating these contracts with every institution in the system. Final reviews will be done on campuses by the local governing boards and then the contracts will go back to the CCHE for final signatures.

Questions and Comments for Matt from the Commission:

Are performance contracts going to be a positive for institutions? Yes. They'll give institutions more freedom and will result in a 40% decrease in oversight regulations by the CCHE. After the performance contracts are finalized they will be put on the CCHE Web site.

### **Core Curriculum**

There will be flexibility in creating new courses.

No institution's core curriculum can exceed 40 credit hours.

What is required is a core curriculum of 35-37 hours, which leaves 3-5 hours that do not have to be in the State Guaranteed Transfer Core. If UNC wants a diversity requirement, it could fit it into the 3-5 credit hour area, or a diversity course could be included in the social sciences area.

300- and 400- level courses cannot be included in the core curriculum; only 100- and 200- level courses can be in the core

### **The GE 25 Council**

The GE 25 Council is made up of representatives from each of the twenty-five institutions in the state. Some of these are faculty members; others are administrators.

GE 25 will spend the next two years completing the process of approving courses for inclusion in the State Guaranteed Transfer Core. Matt hopes that it will be possible to submit courses for consideration throughout the year, not just in the fall.

To be approved for inclusion in the State Guaranteed Transfer Core, courses must meet both content criteria and competency criteria.

How do the courses for State Guaranteed Transfer Core get approved? First faculty groups have to be convinced that the courses are appropriate for the categories in which they're being submitted and that they meet the relevant criteria. Those groups' recommendations are passed on to the GE 25 for its approval, and then sent to the CCHE for final approval. Matt would like each institution to release faculty to serve in the groups that make the initial recommendations as to which courses are to be included in the State Guaranteed Transfer Core.

Matt told the Commission that the institution should take a risk and submit interdisciplinary courses for inclusion in the core if that's what it wants to do. Matt felt that as long as such courses meet the content and competency criteria, they should be accepted.

Per the Performance Contract the new general education program will have to be in effect as of Fall 2006. All courses that have been accepted into the State Guaranteed Transfer Core by that time will be eligible for inclusion.

In all likelihood, there will be a board that will review the State Transfer Core Courses every two years or so to make sure they are still meeting the content and competency criteria.

How will the CCHE ensure quality across the board from all institutions? The CCHE is working on this and has asked for grade distribution data for all core courses.

Will there be a standardized assessment tool? No, while institutions should work with the CCHE on this, each institution will create own tool.

GE 25 is in the process of preparing a flow chart indicating the way the State Guaranteed Transfer Core process will work and will send it out to the institutions.

There will be new admission standards in place by 2008, and by 2010 the admission standards for the State of Colorado will be the most rigorous in the country. They will require incoming students to have had:

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of Math
- 3 years of Social Science
- 3 years of Lab Science
- 2 years of a Foreign Language

Foreign Language courses are not eligible for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer Core at this time. Some institutions are using the extra 3-5 hours for a foreign language requirement. Another idea would be to submit foreign languages courses in the Arts & Humanities area and hope that the faculty group and GE 25 would

approve them.

The Communication Competency is in writing, not speaking. An oral communications requirement could be fit into the 3-5 credit hours beyond the 35-37 credit hour requirements for the core.

Dick thanked Matt for his time with the Commission. Matt said he would welcome calls or e-mails from anyone who has questions or concerns.

3. Other

Dick reminded the Commission that the next meeting is Thursday, December 9, at 11 a.m. in Candelaria 1100.

Spring 2005 meetings will be on Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 in Candelaria 1100. An agenda will be sent out before the first meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by

Sandy Pope  
Recording Secretary