



**COLORADO**

Department of  
Higher Education

1600 Broadway, Suite 2200  
Denver, CO 80202

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Academic Council</b> <b>April 14, 2026</b> <b>1:00 – 3:00 pm</b>
<b>Location</b>	Remote ONLY
<b>Call-In Information</b>	<a href="#">View Meeting Recording</a>
<b>Meeting Participants</b>	Provosts and Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) of the public institutions of higher education
<b>Meeting Objectives</b>	Members advise the Department on policy development and implementation, as well as other matters affecting higher education.

## **AGENDA – NOTES**

### 1. Greetings and Introductions

In attendance: Helen Caprioglio (CSUP); Jerid Counterman (CSUG); Margaret Doell (ASU); Andy Herring (CSM); Mark Kavanaugh (CU Boulder); Jill Lange (MSU Denver); Mike Lightner (CU-SYS); Karen Marrongelle (CU Denver); Kim Miloch (CSU); Rick Miranda (CSU-SYS); Janice Nerger (CSUG); Dave Oehler (Aims); Kathryn Regjo (CMC); Susan Taylor (UCCS); Linda Van Doren (EGTC); Rebecca Woulfe (CCCS-FRCC); Jess Young (WCU); Christina Carrillo (CDHE); Carl Einhaus (CDHE); Spencer Ellis (CDHE); Brad Griffith (CDHE)

### 2. Approval of March Meeting Notes

[see handout: 2026-03-10 NOTES-AC.pdf]

Notes approved

### 3. Announcements and Discussion Items

#### a. Updates from CCHE Advisor Michael Lightner

Dr. Lightner provided an update on recent activities of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE). A major focus was the Commission's adoption of a *CCHE Policy Review Charter*, establishing a recurring five-year review cycle for CCHE policies, with the current cycle expected to occur on an accelerated timeline of approximately 18 months. This process was intended to improve transparency, ensure policies align with statutory changes, and provide predictable opportunities for stakeholder engagement. Additional CCHE updates included leadership transitions, with the current Chair and Vice

Chair indicating they will not seek re-election; elections are expected to occur in connection with the May CCHE meeting. Other updates included discussion of Workforce Pell, budget matters, and a presentation on Open Educational Resources (OER), highlighting their role in reducing student costs. The installation of a new president at Fort Lewis College — recognized as the first Indigenous president of a non-tribal college in the nation — was also noted.

- b. COF requests for selected “off-campus” undergraduate programs for FY27  
Brad led Council members in a discussion related to the annual request process for College Opportunity Fund (COF) eligibility for selected off-campus or extended studies undergraduate programs. Council members were informed that Academic Council input is advisory; final determinations rest with department staff and the Commission. Two requests were under consideration: one from Colorado School of Mines and one from Western Colorado University. Council members raised concerns regarding clarity of process, prior consultation with institutions, and the appropriateness of discussing institution-specific proposals in a public forum. CDHE staff clarified that the purpose of this agenda item was information sharing and policy awareness rather than institutional evaluation and affirmed a commitment to working with institutions individually when needed.

Based on this discussion, staff indicated both requests would move forward to CCHE, with an adjusted FTE level applied to the Mines request.

- c. Transfer initiatives update (Carl Einhaus)
- Higher Education Transfer Audit  
Carl provided an update on the Higher Education Transfer Audit conducted by the State Auditor’s Office. Of the 19 recommendations issued, five student-specific recommendations have already been addressed. Remaining recommendations are being addressed through a combination of departmental action and work led by the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee. One departmental action item involves improving guidance and training on coding military-affiliated students, following findings of inconsistent or incorrect coding practices. Enhanced communication to students regarding potential credit for military experience was identified as a related priority.
  - CCHE Transfer Subcommittee  
Carl informed Council members that the CCHE Transfer Subcommittee is currently focused on establishing a clear mission and vision and expanding the statewide transfer conversation beyond GT Pathways and Statewide Transfer Articulation Agreements. The goal is to better address alternative learning experiences, work-based learning, and other forms of prior learning that may reduce time to

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credential for students. A draft vision statement and related recommendations stemming from the audit are expected to be developed for Commission consideration ahead of the October 1 deadline. Members were also informed that the auditor recommended development of an annual, data-informed statewide transfer analysis to guide policy decisions.

The Council was informed of a recent demonstration of a transfer-related technology platform presented to the transfer subcommittee for informational purposes only. CDHE emphasized that no vendor selection or procurement is underway and that any future exploration would consider cost, sustainability, and statewide participation. Members raised concerns about vendor costs and requested that decisions be grounded in reliable data rather than anecdotal evidence. CDHE staff reiterated that improving transfer data collection and reporting is a core audit recommendation and will inform future decision-making.

- d. Institutional check-in – what is happening on your campuses?  
Council members expressed interest in having future opportunities — either within Academic Council meetings or through separate convenings — to discuss shared challenges, emerging campus issues, and day-to-day operational concerns in a less formal setting. CDHE leadership expressed support for exploring this idea and offered to help facilitate such conversations in the future. At the request of members, the meeting recording was ended before any informal discussion began.

#### 4. New, modified, and closed programs

##### a. New

- Colorado State University – Global Campus
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Broadband Operations Management
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Medical Billing and Coding
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainable Sport Management
  - Bachelor of Science in Advanced Manufacturing Operations
  - Bachelor of Science in Environmental Sustainability
  - Bachelor of Science in Sport Nutrition
  - Graduate Certificate in Special Education Added Endorsement
- University of Colorado Colorado Springs
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence in Business
  - Graduate Certificate in Business Analytics
  - Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Anesthesiology Assistant

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- Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Dentistry
- Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Medical Laboratory Science
- Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Medicine
- Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Occupational Therapy
- Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Optometry
- Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Pharmacy
- Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Physical Therapy
- Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Physician Assistant
- Graduate Certificate in Health Professional Post-Bac – Pre Veterinary
- Graduate Certificate in HR Management

b. Modified

- Metropolitan State University of Denver
  - Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education changed to Bachelor of Arts in Art Education
- University of Colorado Colorado Springs
  - Graduate Certificate in Foundations of Substance Use and Recovery Counseling changed to Graduate Certificate in Substance Use and Recovery Counseling
  - Graduate Certificate in Public Management changed to Graduate Certificate in Public Administration Leadership and Management

c. Closed Programs

- Colorado Mesa University
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Aviation Technology
  - Associate of Applied Sciences in Aviation Technology – Emphasis in Helicopter
  - Associate of Applied Sciences in Radiologic Technology
  - Bachelor of Fine Arts in Dance
  - Graduate Certificate in Social Sciences
  - Master of Natural Resources in Geography
  - Doctor of Occupational Therapy
- Metropolitan State University of Denver
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Electrical Engineering Technology
  - Undergraduate Certificate in High-Risk Youth Studies
  - Undergraduate Certificate in Sociology of Tourism
  - Bachelor of Science in Health Care Professional Services

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- Bachelor of Science in Integrative Health Care
- Graduate Certificate in English Education

## ACTION ITEMS

Issue	Action / Next Step	Assigned To & Date Assigned

