

MINUTES

Regular Meeting of the CU Denver Downtown Campus Faculty Assembly's
Budget Priorities Committee

February 3, 2026

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Zoom

Times estimated

BPC Members: Sarah Fields, Chair (CLAS), Joanne Addison, Vice Chair (CLAS), Kelly McCusker, Secretary (Auraria Library), Ann Komara (CAP), Julien Langou (CLAS), Travis Vermilye (CAM), David Tracer (CLAS), Kristyn Masters (CECD), Todd Ely (SPA)

Guests: Ryan Davis (Interim EVC for Administration and Finance), Jen St. Peter (Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget), Karen Marrongelle (Provost), Cherlyl Ansaldi (Admin Coordinator), Heidi Utt (Staff Council Representative)

Committee Issues and updates (10:00 – 10:05am)

- Approval of December minutes

Welcome and Introduction (10:05 – 10:10am)

- Ryan Davis, Interim EVC for Finance
 - Introductions to Ryan
 - Introduction from Ryan

Updates from Karen Marrongelle and Ryan Davis (10:10 – 11:15am)

- Parallel budget model: we are halfway through and would like numbers
 - Jen and Karen will be meeting with deans at the end of the month to provide an overview of what the new budget model looks like to them.
 - Encourage us to bring our concerns here.
 - Continuing questions about the 50-50 split in the parallel budget model and concerns about that model structure entirely
 - There were and are still concerns about the budget model pitting schools and colleges against each other.
 - There was not a consensus for the decision. Data is being pulled and analyzed to determine how this will affect schools / colleges.
 - DFWI courses: Have we taken the time to look at costs to improve rates of completion? What is the cost to boost student success in a course?
 1. Think costs known are well-known at the local level, but don't think this has been considered with subvention.
 2. Wish the budget had some slack; however, the university's budget doesn't have any slack. Could be done locally at a school / college.

- We need to not bet on sure things. Hopefully we will get to multi-year funding for projects. One type of deployment of strategic fund is helpful
 - Retention is a question. Want to retain students at CU Denver not necessarily in a particular department. Our goal should be to get them a four-year degree – interests change.
 - How much are each school and college being subvented? We don't hear much about central student support units. How do colleges and schools work with central units to approach the issues (such as DFWI rates)? Karen can work with student success and present about what they are working on in collaboration with the schools and colleges.
- Who is monitoring schools/colleges budgets?
 - This was in BPC's old procedures.
 - Combination of Jen, Ryan, and Karen.
 - Healthy sense of autonomy in schools and colleges, but there is a need to understand the limitations of that thinking.
 - Jen meets with schools / colleges monthly, then meet with Provost and each Dean twice a year.
 - They look at line items.
 - If funds are being pushed out for strategic initiatives, then there needs to be some accountability.
 - BPC used to receive a spreadsheet outlining schools / colleges and subvention and GAR, but we haven't seen this in a couple of years. This is the budget model. We're interested in seeing numbers for parallel budget models.
- Federal and/or state funding updates
 - Board of Regents is meeting Thursday and Friday. Present three scenarios to Board. The state is struggling.
 - Scenarios may be too optimistic. All are showing tuition rate increases.
 - State had a mid-year reduction this year to solve budget gap.
 - Figure setting will be in March.
- Two regents are going to introduce a collective bargaining policy. As far as we know Faculty Council have not been included in the discussion.
 - Determining where the lines are can be difficult.
- Update on status of Faculty Assembly request for faculty salary list—given time limitations for appeals, time is of the essence
 - Jen and Karen talked about this and are working on it behind the scenes.
- Parking: Status of CU parking oversight shift
 - CU Denver garage should be completed now.
 - Still in process, not executed through PSC yet.
- AHEC: Status of the KPMG report to the state?

- Received initial recommendation from KPMG and campus is drafting a response and is due Friday.
- Expect report and response will be made public.
- Turan sent information to Associate Deans about hiring practices, partly related to course releases and how it counts toward work and how to standardize.
- Faculty Assembly (FA) budget request
 - If you are elected faculty assembly chair, who do you ask for course release?
 - This way for budgeting for Faculty Assembly is new. Prior to this, FA was given funds and we were trusted to allocate the money fairly.
 - This creates have and have nots. Some deans can match course releases, some can't.
 - There was no discussion about the change in how the budget was allocated, rather one person wanted more overview.

BPC Housekeeping (11:15 – 11:30am)

- Operating procedures discussion
 - If we could get access to a budget spreadsheet.
 - Can we make recommendations for budget decisions? The BPC Chair is often in these discussions.
 - For future, be aware of how collective bargaining may affect our operating procedures.
- Faculty Assembly budget
 - We would like control over the budget again.
 - We want faculty to be able to say yes to service work, but course release isn't always available.
- We will see program reviews this spring.