

## MINUTES

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

October 7, 2025

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Zoom / Room 901 at Lawrence Street Center (the Honors Space)

BPC Members: Sarah Fields, Chair (CLAS), Ann Komara (CAP), Todd Ely (SPA), Kelly McCusker, Secretary (Auraria Library), Travis Vermilye (CAM), Julia Mahfouz (SEHD), Tony Cox (Business School)

Guests: Cheryl Ansaldi (FA/UCDALI Administrative Coordinator), Ken Christensen (Chancellor), Melissa Baldwin (Vice Chancellor for Advancement)

Absent: Julien Langou (CLAS), Joanne Addison, Vice Chair (CLAS), David Tracer (CLAS)

### **Welcome and housekeeping (10am - 10:30am)**

- Introductions
- End of your BPC term? Cheryl would like to track.
  - Most members' end dates are May 2026.
  - Colleges / schools / library do not have the same length of terms on BPC or the same selection / election process.
- Approval of September minutes
  - Minutes approved
- Update on Operating Code revision process
  - Some of the activities listed in the operating code are not done by BCP. Should we take or start to do? Will continue conversation later.
- Edits to letter to School/College CFOs asking about generally how D2 and D3 money is spent
  - No concerns about Sarah's draft. Sarah will send to schools to gather information for BPC to review and discuss.
  - Have heard concerns about money being scooped.
  - We view this as a learning opportunity for all schools and colleges to see other opportunities for this money.
  - Where is the list of D1, D2, and D3 programs?
  - What services do D2 and D3 students have access to?
- Proposal to cap salaries: Regents have withdrawn it due to amount of feedback.

### **Final Campus Administrative Policy (CAP) 1006 version discussion (10:30am - 10:45am)**

- Ensuring salary grievance policies, additional compensation, and professional development funds.
- Academic Personnel Committee (APC) had multiple concerns.

- We had multiple questions about the preference for additional payment (salary), not professional development (PD) funds. Taxes and benefits are taken out of salary, not PD funds. Does this make it easier for the university?
- There is no additional compensation or PD funds for being chair, vice chair, or secretary of faculty committees. Rather these are course releases when available.
- This is finalized.

**Written report from Ann Sherman, EVC for Finance and Administration, discussion (10:45am – 11am)**

- Parking
  - Lots of questions and concerns about parking, first time hearing about the parking vendor for CU Denver parking.
  - There are concerns from faculty about not being able to find parking and then not wanting to come to campus.
  - Reserved spots are only available in the Lawrence Street Center (LSC).
  - People can't find parking even if they purchase 24/7 access.
  - Teatro is leasing some of the spots in the CU Building.
  - Safety questions about access to the building if leasing out to non-CU affiliated people.
  - A survey from CU Denver went out to people who have CU Denver parking passes asking about safety, access, etc.
  - Sarah will follow up with Ann about parking.
- Salary pool (2.5%) will happen.

**Ken Christensen, Chancellor, and Melissa Baldwin, VC for advancement (11am - 11:30am)**

- Upcoming campaign
  - Campaigns have historically been system wide campaigns.
  - Previous chancellor asked for comprehensive campaign at the CU Denver level.
  - We are currently in the silent phase of the campaign for the past 5 years, working with Deans and Student Success to talk about fundraising goals and needs for the campus. We've raised \$90M of original \$100M goal.
  - Campaigns have “buckets”.
  - Not leading with any capital pieces right now, but it could come up during the campaign.
  - Follow along the refresh of the strategic plan, celebrate wins throughout the campaign.
  - Celebrate in 2030 for completion of the strategic plan and this campaign.
  - Campaigns begets campaigns.
  - Boulder is going to announce a \$2B campaign, don't want to compete with that.

- Our original students are just now graduating won't have the same alumni as more traditional campuses
  - First generation students are creating generational wealth, family comes first then donations.
  - We have a young philanthropic base to pull from.
  - Supplementing with foundations and friends of the university.
  - Return in Investment (ROI): \$6-8 for every dollar we put into this
  - We have an endowment for the system and we have a portion of this. It's all invested together. Our portion is \$240M. We get 4% as a payout.
  - Our core business model should support our needs.
  - Endowments aren't a substantial revenue sources and it shouldn't be because it hides the problems.
- Other
  - Have a deficit now of about \$3M.
  - Retention rate is at all-time high and we had an increase in new students.
  - Signed agreements with Denver Public Schools for guaranteed admission if a student meets certain criteria. Talking with Aurora school district and Jefferson County school district; which would mean agreements with 3 of the 5 largest school systems in the state.
    - Adams and Cherry Creek are perhaps next; St. Vrain's School District seem interested
  - Concurrent enrollment with community colleges (CC), CC can't support all the students who are interested and discussions are starting about how CU Denver can fill in this space.
  - For balanced budget: 100 students = \$1M, so need 300 more students for balanced budget this year.
  - Waiting on results of AHEC assessment and report
  - Healthy endowments should be 80/20 or 60/40 unrestricted vs. restricted. Some other institutions have the opposite and are restricted in what they can do. We want more unrestricted.
- Invite Melissa back once the campaign has started.