

MINUTES

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

September 2, 2025

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Zoom

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

Guests: Ann Sherman (EVC Finance and Administration), Cheryl Ansaldi (FA/UCDALI Administrative Coordinator)

Elections (10:00am - 10:10am)

- Confirmation (or not) of Sarah Fields continuing as chair—requires an affirmative vote
 - 4 approved, 1 abstain, passed
- Elect vice chair of committee: Joanne Addison
- Elect secretary of committee: Kelly McCusker

Introductions and welcome (10:10am - 10:15am)

- No Engineering member yet

Ann Sherman, EVC for Finance and Administration (10:15am - 11:10am)

- State emergency budget session updates
 - One of seven states in US that tie tax policies with federal policies, \$1BN in the hole for this fiscal year
 - Legislature: closed tax loopholes, governor made recommendations to find \$252M through general fund cuts, transfers within general funds, state agency hiring freeze
 - Hiring freeze would not directly affect CU Denver hiring.
 - Asking for more info on state agency hiring freeze
 - All public higher education institution's allocations were cut, 30% cut to the increase that we were expecting. \$9.8M cut to entire state, \$2.6M to CU system, \$472K in reductions to CU Denver in mid-year cuts
 - 50% cut to limited purpose fee for service; \$2M of that cut is CU shared costs
 - Examples: UCCS cybersecurity program cut
 - Anschutz is getting hit really hard with state and federal cuts
 - May affect FY 26-27 more. 10-year grant from system office is ending in FY 27 as well. Still have about \$1.3M that we are using off of the grant.
 - Will have to keep an eye on state for next year.
 - Assuming 2% reduction at state level in FY 27.

- Enrollment
 - New freshman up 6%
 - New transfer up 3.6%
 - New grads down 1.5%
 - Continuing undergrads up 1.1%
 - Continuing grads down 1.7%
 - Headcount: Total undergrads up 2.1%
 - Headcount: Total grads down 1.6%
 - Headcount: Overall up 1%
 - Up about \$1.175M for budget target
 - International students down 37.5%
 - Visa problems for international students
 - Business School is looking for other overseas partnerships, in particular Vietnam.
 - Looking into visa training for students.
- Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC) updates
 - Spring 2025 Legislation
 - AHEC received a direct appropriation from the state rather than from the three schools on campus
 - AHEC had to agree on service level agreements (SLA)
 1. Examples: King Center stagehands, custodial, HR, procurement, mail delivery
 2. Found Rutgers service level agreements as an example but schools want to look at metrics: what service do we want, what service can AHEC provide; this feedback was not gathered before SLAs
 3. SLAs should be signed now, but will continue to work on SLAs
 - Study to determine if AHEC should exist: governance, operations, financing
 1. KPMG has been hired for this.
 2. Currently in the data gathering phase. Survey and focus groups over the next two months.
 3. Looking at comparisons of similar entities.
 4. Report will be ready by end of January.
 - State legislature needs to make changes for the actual existence / operations to change.
 - How are faculty represented on AHEC board / committees?
 - FACAB: Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board, non-voting members
 - IPG: Integrative Planning Group
 1. 3 reps from each of the schools: faculty, staff, student
 - For students: SACAB: Student Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board, non-voting members
 - Ball Field Project Two Buildings

- First building (MSU Denver and AHEC): Metro Student Housing, Career Hub, 1st floor retail / dining
 - Second Building (AHEC alone): Affordable housing with Columbia Ventures, ~300 residents, 1st floor Early Learning Childhood Center
- Health Career Building (MSU Denver): South side of the west building near 9th street
 - CCD had expected to have a floor or two of the building and then were told no.
- Safety and Security Building (AHEC)
 - Three stories high, groundbreaking this week
 - Include student study space
- Concerns on campus: mold in Plaza building
- Parallel budget model year engagement
 - Subvention conversation with deans has not happened yet.
 - Recommendations from Budget Allocation Review Committee (BARC) with regards to looking at campus comprehensively, majors / credit hours, modeling, 1% for strategic initiatives, etc. will be implemented
 - Jenn St. Peter has asked for volunteers from past BARC members. Kelly and Julien were members last year and are interesting in continuing the work.
 - Running in conjunction with old model this year (FY 26). FY 27 would be new model alone.
- P Card updates and changes
 - Two cards: procurement (P) card and travel card.
 - 4th of four campuses for P card audit. Shocking results.
 - ~2,300 transactions on P card, about 60% had errors.
 - Problems
 - People need to put in better documentation for why something is purchased with a P card.
 - We pay taxes too often.
 - Too much automatic signing / approving, need to look at receipts.
 - In receipts it's important to put who is present, type of function, and why it's a university expense.
 - Marco level systemic changes, additional training, some escalation with repeat errors, looking at who's getting P cards. Might take away some P cards with very little utilization.

Planning for Fall 2025 (11:10-11:30)

- All BPC (and other faculty committee members) members are voting members of Faculty Assembly
- October 7th BPC meeting will be hybrid with the chancellor
- October 7th FA meeting will be hybrid
- Revision of BPC Operating Procedures
 - Sarah will share document on Teams for editing / track changes.

- Anyone is welcome to make high level / detailed suggestions.
 - Hopefully it will be finished by end of this semester.
- Fall 2025 guests to monitor and engage with issues such as
 - Contracts: inconsistent times, FA is involved
 - Upcoming fundraising campaign: invite Melissa Baldwin
 - Program viability / vitality: dashboard available
 - Collaboration with Finance Office on School/College budgeting: who's watching what happens in schools and colleges, don't want to review budgets, but want to learn about how it affects program viability; If you have D2/D3 funds, what do you use them for?
 - Invite Lesley Smith (representative and former regent) to meeting
 - Structural deficit
 - Compensation Collaborative (CCC?)
 - AHEC (guests beyond Ann Sherman?)