



CU Denver Faculty Assembly Meeting

April 7, 2026 | 12:30pm to 2:30pm

MINUTES

Learning Commons, third floor *or* Zoom (<https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/93440986999>)

Chair's Update (Wendy Bolyard)

- Welcome & Call to Order
 - This meeting combined the Faculty Senate Annual Organizational Meeting and regular Faculty Assembly business.
 - The meeting was noted as open to the public, with the possibility of media presence.
- Approve Minutes from March 2026- Motion to approve minutes from March.
Minutes approved.
- Shared: [Provost Updates](#)

FA Elections

- The current FA Secretary, Jamie Hodgkins, is running for office and therefore, Dennis Debay served as Elections Chair to ensure fairness.
- Officers will be elected in the following order
 - Vice Chair
 - Secretary
- Bylaws require representation from different faculty categories (Tenure/Tenure-Track vs. IRC) between Vice Chair and Secretary.
- Vice Chair Nominees:
 - Erin Hauger
 - Jamie Hodgkins
 - No additional nominations were received. Nominations were closed.
 - Each candidate had 3 minutes to provide their statement, followed by questions and answers.
 - Faculty asked candidates about experience advocating at administrative levels.
 - Both candidates described past advocacy roles within departments and graduate programs.
 - Candidates exited the room and voting was conducted via Qualtrics survey.
 - Jamie Hodgkins was elected Vice Chair of Faculty Assembly by majority vote.
- Secretary Election
 - No eligible IRC candidates had been nominated.
 - There was discussion around bylaws constraints of needing this position to be IRC, the workload and responsibilities of the secretary role, and options for tabling the election or suspending bylaws.
 - Motion: Table the Secretary election until May 2026 to allow recruitment.
Moved and seconded. Outcome: Motion carried
 - Follow-up Action: Broad call for IRC faculty nominations by utilizing campus communication lists and connections with UCDALI to recruit candidates.
 - Note that the position includes a course release or stipend (up to \$5,000).

Core Curriculum (Michelle Comstock, antwan jefferson)

- Resources
 - [Core Curriculum Motion and Ballot](#)
 - [Core Curriculum Proposal Budget Impact Statement 20MAR2026.pdf](#)
 - <https://www.ucdenver.edu/offices/provost/academic-planning/academic-transformation-working-groups/reimagining-the-core-curriculum>
- Motion: Advance proposed undergraduate core curriculum structure to full faculty vote.
- Discussion:
 - Discussion on readiness for full faculty vote, and what timeline/rollout will look like. Working groups begin right away. Current courses in core will stay in core but may be moved around.
 - Clarification that the debate focused on process, not merits.
 - Quorum confirmed: 7% of faculty present.
 - Supportive comments emphasized transparency and extensive engagement.
 - Concerns raised included: Implementation readiness, timeline feasibility, impact on students, advising, degree audits, and budget restructuring
 - Responses clarified: Pilot rollout planned, all existing courses remain in the core, clusters/certificates are not part of the current vote
- Vote to advance proposal to full faculty vote passed
- The full faculty ballot will be distributed later the same day or shortly thereafter and remain open for several weeks.

Graduate Education

- <https://www.ucdenver.edu/graduate-education/about/graduate-education-updates>
- Mike Wunder discussed current focus on looking for targets and hurdles from schools and colleges.
- Would like feedback from stakeholders, like Faculty Assembly and UCDALI. Needs written documentation summarizing recommendations around policies, campus wide consistencies, academics.
- These summaries will be formally acknowledged, included with the working group's report, and forwarded to the Provost to highlight logistical and implementation issues without revising the core recommendations. Individuals may also submit written comments through the working group website, with a commitment from the group to review, respond to, and transmit that feedback to campus leadership, ensuring transparency and a clear record of how stakeholder input informs next steps.
- Discussion around funding: emphasized that the proposed changes do not create new funding but instead rely on existing unit-level budgets and limited central tuition support, neither of which is guaranteed to increase. Significant concern was raised about who would pay for tuition remission when hiring graduate students, particularly for teaching appointments, and the risk that unclear or increased costs could lead departments, especially those with limited resources, to hire fewer or no graduate students. Faculty stressed the need to clearly distinguish between teaching and research appointments, noted that any short-term budget flexibility is temporary, and

underscored that without a clear, sustainable funding plan, well-intentioned reforms could reduce access, harm recruitment and retention, and exacerbate inequities across disciplines.

FA Committees Updates | Policies Under Review

- FACAB - Senate Bill 34 passed! This grants voting rights to students and faculty on the Auraria Board.
 - FACAB expanding to 3 members and will recruit.

Discussion Topics

- ChatGPT EDU
 - Faculty/staff access began March 31; student access begins August 13, 2026.
 - Chancellor forming a campus AI Advisory Committee (faculty, staff, students) with the goal of facilitating dialog around this. Asked for one representative from FA and UCDALI. The campus group will be three each, faculty, staff, and students. Ai fellows will be ex-officio.
 - Faculty Assembly is considering creation of its own AI working group.
 - Emphasis on transparency, ethics, pedagogy, and contract renewal metrics.
- The FA newsletter was successful in notifying faculty of summer committee opportunities
- Professional Rights and Responsibilities (PRR) summer working group
 - The PRR will establish shared principles and values, along with practical procedures to ensure fair, consistent, and transparent implementation. Its goal is to promote good governance, reduce ambiguity, strengthen accountability, and foster a culture of mutual respect and professionalism.
 - Discussion emphasized that the group's work would address issues such as how conflicts are resolved and how rights and responsibilities are articulated and understood across all levels of the institution. It was noted that this effort is not starting from scratch, as similar PRR frameworks already exist at other CU campuses, which can serve as models to adapt locally.
 - There is a sense of urgency, driven in part by interest from the Chancellor's office, to move this work forward, and the group actively called for faculty volunteers to participate in the summer working group.
- FCQ summer working group – QUEST
 - Expect three subgroups
 - FCQ Question Redesign Group – focused on revising the FCQ questions themselves, with the goal of better measuring teaching practices and student-observable teaching behaviors, informed by models used at peer or sister institutions.
 - Technology and Platform Group – focused on the technical infrastructure used to administer FCQs, including exploring whether CU Denver should decouple from Boulder's system and move to an in-house platform similar to what is used at UCCS.
 - Multiple Means of Evaluation Group – focused on how to operationalize multiple methods of faculty evaluation at the campus level, beyond FCQs alone, and how those methods are implemented consistently across units.
 - Provost is very excited about this work and supporting faculty
 - Suggestion to consider timing of FCQs was brought up.
- Collective bargaining task force

- Resolution passed in the last meeting.
- This is a summer working group
- Joanne Addison and Jamie Hodgkins will lead the task force.
- The group will be looking at models on other campus.
- Similar efforts are underway or being discussed at Boulder and UCCS, and Faculty Council has already met with Board of Regents members to explore pathways forward.
- Bylaws ad-hoc committee (subcommittees on elections and committee structure)
 - Meeting regularly.
 - Not meeting over the summer but will bring revisions to full faculty assembly in the fall.
- Federal immigration policies and campus implications ([BFA resolution](#))
 - Safety cards distributed. Contact Antonio for more cards
 - Emphasis on the importance of acknowledging and supporting anxiety and uncertainty among faculty, staff, and students affected by changing federal actions. Faculty Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to ongoing monitoring, communication, and advocacy.
 - Related comments also referenced broader campus safety and access issues, including an upcoming Auraria Board policy on lockdown procedures, situating immigration concerns within a larger context of campus safety and governance.
- Thing Studio event April 17th
 - “Unconference”
 - This year’s focus – UnArtificial
 - Whole day, Lecturer landing zone

New Business

- Discussion about reduced credit bachelor’s degrees and updates from CFAC, Colorado Faculty Advisory Council.
 - Degrees would be fewer than 120 credits
 - This change requires legislative action.
 - CFAC has developed a faculty survey to gather statewide input on this issue, including concerns about academic rigor, transfer pathways, graduate school implications, and degree naming conventions. Faculty Assembly members were encouraged to circulate the survey widely within their schools and colleges so that a broad range of faculty perspectives can inform CFAC’s recommendations and any future policy or legislative discussions.
 - [Memo from Faculty Assembly](#) approved in the past
- Please complete the Faculty Flourishing survey
 Survey link: https://ucdenver.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1Rj84CS31mEJs0e

Adjournment 2:28pm

Attendance

Michael Abeyta
 Ruben Anguiano
 Cheryl Ansaldo
 Peter Anthamatten

Eric Baker
 Farnoush Banaei-Kashani
 Dr. Gisella Bassani
 Scott Bauer

Hamilton Bean
 Thomas Beck
 Rodney Blunck
 Dr. Wendy Bolyard

David Bondelevitch
Jennifer Boylan
Sasha Breger
Nina Buchanan
Edelina Burciaga
Faye Caronan
Kris Christensen
Michelle Comstock
Maryam Darbeheshti
Dennis DeBay
Katy DiVittorio
Dr.Colleen Donnelly
Joni Dunlap
Miranda Egger
Nan Ellin
Mr. Eric
Rashmi Gangamma
Catalin GRIGORAS
Ileana Gross
Emilie Guidez
Keith Guzik
Erin Hauger
Stephen Hartke
Amy Hasinoff
David Hildebrand
Jamie Hodgkins

Laurel Hyslop
Jeffrey Jacot
Haadi Jafarian
antwan jefferson
Julia Kantor
Turan Kayaoglu
Lisa Keränen
Kristin Kilbourn
Dr. Chelsey Klassen
Julien Langou
Marjorie Levine-Clark
Jim LoPresti
Jason Machado
Fernando Mancilla-David
Karen Marrongelle
Kelly Mccusker
Alejandra Medina
Katy Mohrman
Sarah North
Marty Otañez
Shuyang Peng
Florian Pfender
Christopher Phiel
Elizabeth Pugliano
Gregory Ragland
Krista Ranby

Kim Regier
Jennifer Reich
Sara Satkowiak
Kodi Saylor
Kathryn Schamu
Jeffrey Schrader
Kelly See
Vivian Shyu
Gillian Silverman
Jeremy Simon
Karen Sobel
Rachel Stein
John Swallow
T. T.
Madhavi Tandon
Diana Tomback
David Tracer
Alan Vajda
Jenny Vermilya
Anthony Villano
Kat Vlahos
Tarik Walker
Diana White
Kristin Whitmore
Ihao Woo