



Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

CU Denver Faculty Assembly Meeting

December 2, 2025 | 12:30pm to 2:30pm

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

Chair's Update (Wendy Bolyard)

- Welcome and call to order 12:31pm
- Approve Minutes from [November 2025](#)
 - Motion approved, minutes approved.
- Hygiene Drive – leave items at the FA office, 3rd floor Learning Commons
 - [Food Fight](#) update. Ended Dec 2 with CU Denver the winner!
- Search Process Reform
 - Response received from Ann Sherman.
 - Executive Committee drafting a reply; updates will follow.
- Faculty Council updates
 - Positions still open:
 - Faculty Council representative needed: 1x Communications Committee
 - System Sustainability Steering Committee – 2 members needed
 - Two resolutions approved:
 - Support for Mutual Defense Compact. Faculty council approved the resolution to join.
 - Rejection of loyalty oaths requested by the federal administration.
 - CU system is not planning to join Mutual Defense Compact despite campus-level support. Boulder Faculty Assembly also approved a resolution.
 - System level strategic planning: No faculty on this committee; feedback form is available and will be sent out via email.
 - AI Policy Update:
 - CU Denver has representatives on the system wide AI Committee (Phillip De Leon, Ronica Rooks)
 - Draft policy: [Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence](#) posted for review/comments.
 - CU evaluating a GenAI tool for 2026 rollout (details under vendor negotiation).
 - Guiding principles will be incorporated into training and communication.
 - Training and enablement programs planned.
 - Faculty concerns raised about Adobe Acrobat access and cost variability.

FA [Committees](#) Updates | Policies Under Review

- [LGBTQ+](#) / [Women's Committee](#) (Katy Mohrman)
 - Presented [a letter](#) addressing identity data issues (names, pronouns, system integration). Requesting the administration take specific steps to address the issues.
 - Key points:
 - Lack of clear administrative responsibility.
 - Technical challenges acknowledged but not a reason for inaction.
 - Example: Student with maiden name and now hired as professor. – took 1.5 years or more to get name fixed.

- Specific asks: accountability measures, monthly progress updates, stakeholder involvement.
 - [Workshops can be arranged](#) if there is interest, email KATHERINE.MOHRMAN@UCDENVER.EDU
 - Motion to approve letter: Passed.
 - Plan to seek Student Government Association (SGA) co-signature.
 - Other concerns discussed: protecting records from federal overreach. Won't be a one-and-done fix.
 - CU Denver Gender and LGBTQ+ Inclusion How-To Guide for Employees & Students
 - [Student CU Denver Gender and LGBTQ+ Inclusion How-To Guide](#)
 - [Employee CU Denver Gender and LGBTQ+ Inclusion How-To Guide](#)
- FACAB (Diana White)
 - Christkindlmarket: Parking controversy; rates reduced after negative press.
 - Tivoli Reimagined Project: Vote scheduled for February; town halls planned late January/early February. Too late to give meaningful feedback? Larimer Square 2.0 option includes outward facing access to eating/coffee.
 - Ball Field Project: Construction started; scaled back from 13 to 7 stories due to financing. Two towers, ELC, metro dorm, workforce housing, no parking garage. Is there a legal way to reserve space for faculty/staff?
 - Auraria Board Voting Rights:
 - KPMG study being finalized. Will be given (draft) to each institution, and it will get finalized after input gathered.
 - We were on track to present a resolution to ask for their support at next week's board meeting. This requires a legislative change. Must change statute to do this. Regents don't take position on pending legislation.
 - <https://aurariacampus.edu/auraria/board/>
 - Goal: Change legislation from 1976 to allow faculty and student representatives on the Auraria Board of Directors (ABOD) to become voting members (currently non-voting).
 - Minor changes include removing a 3-year residency requirement for students and expanding FACAB from 6 to 9 members.
 - Progress:
 - Faculty and student advisory committees passed updated resolutions in support.
 - Legislative sponsors lined up; bill intended to focus solely on voting rights.
 - Challenges:
 - Requires statutory change; timing complicated by KPMG study on Auraria governance.
 - CU Regent Elliot Hood expressed concern about introducing a separate bill now, fearing conflict with potential restructuring legislation based on KPMG results.
 - Mixed support among board members; some abstentions expected.
 - Chancellor declined meetings; CU's lobbying influence noted.
 - Current Status:
 - Emergency meeting requested with Auraria CEO Colleen Walker to strategize.

- Considering whether to proceed with board presentation and public comments next Tuesday or delay.
- Discussion on whether to introduce legislation this year for visibility, even if passage is unlikely.
- Key Arguments:
 - Voting rights ensure faculty and students have a formal voice, not dependent on goodwill.
 - Current treatment is positive, but lack of voting authority excludes participation in executive sessions.
- Next Steps:
 - Possible outreach to politically savvy former chairs and regents.
 - May call for volunteers to give public comment at the board meeting.

Provost Karen Marrongelle

- India campus opportunity (questions from November FA meeting):
 - Emeritus is headquartered in Singapore. What do we know about the company and its investors?
 - Emeritus, a subsidiary of Eruditus, is the primary partner in discussions. Emeritus brings expertise in Indian higher education and regulatory navigation.
 - Their goal is profit-driven, which is expected for a third-party vendor.
 - CU Denver lacks the capital to pursue this initiative independently, but India represents a significant growth market, and partnering helps mitigate risk.
 - The objective is to deliver an experience in India that closely mirrors what students receive in Denver.
 - AI has not been part of the current discussions; faculty will be present on-site in India.
 - Trade-offs exist—there is no perfectly altruistic partner.
 - Concerns will be addressed through contractual clauses as negotiations continue.
 - Information shared about Eruditus:
 - Eruditus has already launched proprietary AI-powered tutors for students and programs with [partner schools](#). The need for training in the age of AI is driving unprecedented demand for the company's enterprise solutions that grew revenue 45% last year. <https://emeritus.org/newsroom/eruditus-secures-150-million-series-f-funding-led-by-tpgs-the-rise-fund/>
- What is the risk-revenue sharing? No update at this time. Will be looking to protect any investment we make. Considering numbers, tax implications, and still analyzing.
- What firm is CU Denver working with to write the contract?
 - Chris Puckett is the lead.
- What is CU Denver's initial investment?
 - Still a question mark. Will bring a firmer number when we have it. One time funding up front.
- Staffing plan: Will any faculty be teaching online from Denver? How many local faculty in India? Can you explain the 10% from Denver? How many current CU Denver faculty will collaborate versus how many new faculty will be hired? If current CU Denver faculty are asked to teach in this new program, how will teaching needs for Denver be addressed?

- Opportunities for both online and in-person teaching will be available; up to 10% of any program can be delivered online. Faculty will need to be identified and compensated for serving as lead points of contact.
- Initial programs: Engineering (starting with Computer Science), CLAS (Data Analytics), and possibly Math. Strong market demand for Business degrees and MBAs, as well as Computer Science, Data Science, and Cybersecurity. Expansion to Electrical Engineering in later phases.
- Rollout will occur in phases, with a five-year plan outlining offerings for each year. Deans are exploring creative approaches for program development.
- Other considerations:
 - Engineering programs raise questions about core course requirements and which departments will teach them.
 - Initial offerings will be low on lab requirements, but care must be taken to avoid unintended consequences (e.g., dropping Physics requirements).
 - Departments involved should receive compensatory FTE to prevent overextension and maintain day-to-day operations.
 - Participation will be voluntary, not mandated by the administration.
- Timeline:
 - Board of Regents needs to approve because it's a joint venture.
 - Voting in February.
 - If approved, formal application to Indian government by early March.
 - If approved, we have a two-year window to get on the ground offering programs.
 - Fall 2027 is goal to open.
 - Will need HLC approval.
- Additional Questions
 - Is there a reason we won't offer mechanical engineering? Because of lab requirements. Outset – start with least resource intensive programs. Emeritus strategy is to offer programs that bring in the most students first. Market demand at the start then expand later to other parts of engineering because we know there will be a demand.
 - Will there be an adjustment to allowing having Indian students study in Denver once there is a campus in India? There will still be a desire to come to Denver if they have the means for some students. In country, we'll serve students that can't afford it or can't get visas.
- Unanswered Questions
 - Would Auraria Library resources be available to these students, or would they have their own library?
 - What enrollment figures are you hoping for?
 - *How is salary determined for faculty teaching for/on the campus in India?*
 - *What indicators are being used to determine which programs or disciplines are prioritized?*
 - *Which failed ventures can we learn from?*
 - *What are the steps of the approval process, implementation, and timeline?*
- Student Success
 - A survey has been launched to gather information on student success efforts across schools and colleges; results expected after spring census.

- Provost and Zina Evans, VC Strategic Enrollment and Student Success, will work with deans and associate deans to:
 - Review existing data on program impact.
 - Identify gaps where more data is needed.
 - Determine which initiatives should be scaled up.
- Updates will be shared with Faculty Assembly as progress continues.
- Graduate Education
 - Recommendations from working groups due December 15.
 - Focus: policy, centralized structure, graduate student compensation.
- Faculty Compensation
 - Mercer study revealed disparities; some departments below 25th percentile nationally.
 - Task force to provide recommendations by March.
 - Multi-year plan anticipated.
- Leadership Changes
 - Beth Meyers appointed Interim Deputy CIO.
 - Search for permanent Deputy CIO begins January.
 - Call for Assistant Vice Chancellor (Programs & Accreditation) to be issued.

Discussion Topics

- Academic Freedom
 - Spoke with chancellor and brought up at faculty council.
 - One department was asked to take down a letter. Regent policy is that departments can't make statements, but individuals can.
 - Asked Mike Lightner to provide a system wide webinar on academic freedom.
 - Provost has something on the books.

Teams Calling Project (Jennifer Perunko, David Lowry, Sheard Goodwin)

- Transition from Cisco phones to Microsoft Teams telephony.
- Key points:
 - University phone numbers remain \$21/month.
 - Physical handsets optional; softphone via Teams available.
 - Location tracking only for 911 compliance; data remains local unless emergency call.
 - No current plans to eliminate Zoom; ongoing evaluation of platforms.

New Business

- None.

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 2:31

Attendance:

Provost Karen Marrongelle
 Joanne Addison
 Cheryl Ansaldo
 Peter Anthamatten

Eric Baker
 Gisella Bassani
 Thomas Beck
 Wendy Bolyard

David Bondelevitch
 Sasha Breger
 Edelina Burciaga
 Maryam Darbeheshti

Katy Divittorio
Colleen Donnelly
Joni Dunlap
MirandaL. Egger
Nan Ellin
Sarah Fields
Rashmi Gangamma
Sheard Goodwin
Bryn Harris
Stephen Hartke
Amy Hasinoff
Jamie Hodgkins
Haadi Jafarian

Julia Kantor
Turan Kayaoglu
Kristin Kilbourn
Julien Langou
Jim LoPresti
David Lowry
Fernando Mancilla-David
Alejandra Medina
Katy Mohrman
Rhiana Murphy
Mari Prestigiacomo
Kathryn Schamu
Jeffrey Schrader

Kelly See
Matt Shea
Vivian Shyu
Traci Sitzmann
Christoph Stefes
Rachel Stein
Diana Tomback
Alan Vajda
Anthony Villano
Diana White
Kai Yu
Gabriel Zamosc

EVENTS OF NOTE

Commencement

[Saturday](#), December 13 | 9:00am | Colorado Convention Center

Grades Due

Thursday, December 18

Winter Break

A reminder that [Campus Administrative Policy 1006](#) deems fall, winter and spring breaks and University holidays as unpaid time off for faculty on a 9-month appointment.

Next Faculty Assembly Meeting

Tuesday, February 3 | 12:30-2:30pm | 3rd floor Learning Commons or Zoom
