



CU Denver Faculty Assembly Meeting

March 3, 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
- Approve Minutes from February 2026- Motion to approve minutes from February. Minutes approved.
- Upcoming Vice Chancellor/CFO Finalist Visits
 - Placeholders/meeting invites were sent to Faculty Assembly
 - Finalist materials forthcoming
 - Attendance encouraged but not required
 - Effort toward inclusive communication noted
- Shared: [Provost Updates](#)

FA Elections (Jamie Hodgkins)

- FA Officer roles are open to all faculty members who hold appointments of 50% or more and do not serve in roles above department chair; no college, school, or the library may have more than two officers at a time, and the Vice Chair/Secretary pairing must include one Tenure-Track faculty member and one IRC faculty member.
- Two-year term is 2026-2028
- Open Positions
 - Vice Chair
 - The Vice Chair performs the duties of the chair when the chair is unable to do so and serves as parliamentarian of the Faculty Assembly. The Vice Chair attends monthly meetings including executive committee, assembly, and various leadership meetings, while helping to shape meeting agendas.
 - Secretary
 - The Faculty Assembly Secretary runs the FA elections and works with the recording secretary (FA's administrative support person) to keep an accurate list of current voting members, records attendance at Faculty Assembly meetings, and assumes the duties of the recording secretary, if needed. The Secretary attends monthly meetings including executive committee, assembly, and various leadership meetings, while helping to shape meeting agendas. In addition, the Secretary compiles FA's annual report.
- [Nomination Link](#)
 - Nominations are open for Vice Chair and Secretary for the 2026-2028 term. You may nominate yourself or a colleague (with their permission).
- Nominees are invited to submit an abbreviated CV of no more than three (3) pages and a 250-word candidate statement or 2-3 minute video to Faculty Assembly at least two (2) weeks before the election or upon their nomination, to be shared with FA members prior to the election. Nominations may be received up to and at the beginning of the April meeting. Please send materials to fa@ucdenver.edu.

- Each nominee will have up to three (3) minutes to speak on why they wish to hold the position and present their credentials at the beginning of the April meeting.
- For additional information, visit the Faculty Assembly [website](#) and review the [bylaws](#).
- Discussion of ensuring TT/IRC balance.

Michael Wunder, Graduate Education

Professor and Director, Integrated Biology Graduate Programs, CLAS

Special Assistant to the Provost for Graduate Education

- [Graduate faculty appointments](#)
- APS 5060, faculty titles
 - <https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/5060>
- Mike briefed the Faculty Assembly on progress related to a working group focused on graduate education policy. The group has been addressing three main priorities:
 1. Establishing baseline characteristics and requirements for graduate programs so they can be aligned across campus.
 2. Defining the role of a new central graduate education office, including what processes and procedures should be centralized or decentralized.
 3. Reviewing student employment and tuition remission policies.
- The goal is to have the new graduate office operational by the fall. A key element now under review is a revised definition of graduate faculty, which determines which faculty ranks can perform various graduate-level duties—teaching, mentoring, serving on committees, directing programs, or overseeing PhD dissertations. This proposal is being reviewed simultaneously by the Faculty Assembly, the EPPC, CU Denver committees, and Graduate Council.
- The definitions were built by mapping faculty ranks in the system’s APS 5060 policy to job expectations listed in the policy appendix. Questions arose regarding clinical versus teaching-track faculty, and how decisions were made about who qualifies for which graduate-related responsibilities. Mike explained that the working group followed the written system-level job descriptions, though some gray areas remain (especially around mentoring roles). Feedback is encouraged, and the draft is not final.
- Additional questions were raised about:
 - Whether clinical titles had been removed (they still exist in some units).
 - The consistency of criteria for teaching, clinical, and research faculty roles.
 - The possibility of hiring the new graduate office leader from within campus (encouraged).
 - The process for turning the working group’s recommendation into official policy (feedback → governance review → potential final approval → administrative policy pipeline).
- The discussion ended with an invitation for faculty to read the full report, submit feedback via the provided [form](#), or contact the core faculty fellows directly. This topic will remain on the agenda in upcoming months.

Chancellor Ken Christensen

- [Strategic Plan Refresh](#)
 - Refresh launched February 18.
 - Core principles printed for distribution.
 - Emphasis on mission, access, completion, and community impact.
 - Metrics established; community conversations forthcoming.
- AHEC Update

- Required legislative study completed December/January.
- Recommendations include governance and operations changes.
- Expected to release study publicly this month.
- CU Denver advocating strongly for:
 - Campus needs in infrastructure
 - Rationalized governance structure
 - Institutional control and accountability
- India Campus
 - Continuing to pursue this option and still in conversation with the partner organization. Will apply for permission from India government (non-binding)
 - Earliest launch is Fall 2027
- Budget & Revenue
 - Expanding our revenue base is still a priority. Need to increase enrollment and retention.
 - New budget model is in its “shadow year,” FA BPC was updated on it today. Deans, BARC have been updated. FA will get an update next month.
 - Fundraising campaign (“Elevation”) publicly launched Feb. 10.
 - \$90M raised in silent phase over past years.
 - No final goal set—emphasis on maximizing philanthropic opportunities.
 - Concerns were raised later in the discussion about the CU Foundation financial practices and how much money is actually going to students.
- Student Success (core curriculum)
 - Provost has the lead of core curriculum
 - We want to invest in best practices in sustainable ways. We want a standard of care independent of major/college. What is working in one place (s/c/l) and expanding it across campus
- ChatGPT EDU
 - [FA’s compilation of questions/comments](#)
 - See consolidated discussion of ChatGPT EDU below.

Core Curriculum (Michelle Comstock, antwan jefferson)

- Key documents linked [here](#)
- Slides [Core Overview 25Feb2026.pptx](#)
- Vote next month (April) if passes, work will start late spring 2026
- Fall 2027 is when this would begin with pilot year.
- Please fill out the feedback form
https://ucdenverdata.formstack.com/forms/core_proposal_survey
- Discussion around Guaranteed Transfer/GT Pathway [Guaranteed Transfer \(GT\) Pathways General Education Curriculum | Colorado Department of Higher Education Home](#)
- Proposed Changes
 - Reduce from 34–40 credits → 30–31 credits.
 - Consolidate 7 knowledge areas → 5 areas.
 - Require:
 - 6 credits multimodal communication
 - 3 credits quantitative reasoning

- Cultural Diversity & International Perspectives become designations, not standalone categories.
- Lab science requirement to be voted separately.

FA Committees Updates | Policies Under Review

- [APS 1046](#): Academic Degree Program Annual Tracking and Reporting
- **FA Disability Committee (DisC) Update**
 - [Accessible Pedagogy](#): an array of on-demand Digital Accessibility trainings, provided in collaboration with system and national experts; a variety of resources for faculty and staff on topics such as ableism, executive functioning, and language use.
 - [Faculty Accommodations](#): working with DRS, events including recordings.
 - Reach out to members of DisC if you would like more information and let your departments and units know these resources are available!

Discussion Topics

- [Collective bargaining resolution](#)
 - Resolution is to support faculty collective bargaining rights.
 - Establish a task force to:
 - Study bargaining models.
 - Compare union vs. alternative representation options.
 - Define relationship between collective bargaining and shared governance.
 - Resolution Passed
- Items for discussion at the next meeting:
 - FCQ – QUEST
 - Federal immigration policies and campus implications ([BFA resolution](#))

ChatGPT EDU Discussion

- Files Shared
 - [FA's compilation of questions/comments](#)
 - [Philosophy letter OpenAI 2MAR2026.pdf](#)
 - [Flynn Zook OpenAI 2MAR2026.pdf](#)
 - [Resolution on OpenAI draft 3MAR2026.pdf](#)
- Background
 - The CU System purchased institution-wide access to ChatGPT EDU, scheduled to launch March 31. The decision was made at the system level, not by CU Denver's campus administration or Faculty Assembly.
 - The Chancellor emphasized that campus leadership did not control the process but must now respond responsibly to the rollout's consequences.
- Faculty and students expressed significant concern about the lack of:
 - Transparency in the procurement process
 - Lack of shared governance involvement
 - Ethical impacts of AI
 - Lack of communication prior to rollout

- Need for preparedness and policy infrastructure for teaching and learning impacts
- Chancellor Points about AI
 - Already deeply embedded in workforce environments
 - Something employers expect students to know how to use
 - A tool with both opportunities and serious risks
 - A technology requiring critical, ethical literacy rather than avoidance
 - Students need to understand the ethical, environmental, social, and cognitive impacts and consequences of using AI and will need to make informed decisions.
- Ethical Concerns Raised About OpenAI
 - Strong objections to this company were raised based on:
 - OpenAI's partnerships with Palantir, the Department of Defense, and Israeli military operations
 - Potential involvement in surveillance, immigrant tracking, and ICE detention systems
 - Moral conflict between CU's values and supporting such companies financially
- Student Representative
 - A student survey was conducted independently by students:
 - 270 responses collected within two weeks
 - 93% of students opposed the AI contract
 - Opposition spanned disciplines: arts, architecture, engineering, business, math, psychology, public health, criminal justice, etc.
 - Many students learned of the contract only through peer-organized communications—not official channels
 - Key student objections:
 - Lack of transparency
 - Ethical concerns
 - Mid-semester implementation
 - No student voice in decision-making
 - Unpreparedness of courses and faculty for AI integration
 - Concerns were raised why implementation was happening before literacy infrastructure was in place.
- Faculty Concerns About Teaching & Learning Impacts
 - How do we know AI is improving learning rather than helping students bypass learning?
 - AI use in homework may distort performance indicators
 - DFWI rate changes may be misinterpreted
 - Need supports for:
 - Detecting AI misuse
 - Updating academic integrity policies
 - Standardizing AI disclosure expectations
 - Pedagogical Readiness
 - Students already under-work relative to course expectations
 - Many students lack foundational study skills

- AI will likely widen the gap if used as a shortcut
 - Chancellor Response: Agrees that students require study skills training, AI literacy, and foundational competencies beginning in the first year
 - CU Denver must “eliminate the easy road” and create pedagogical pathways that encourage disciplined learning
- Immediate Concerns for mid-semester rollout
 - No Policy Infrastructure Exists
 - No AI literacy training
 - No campus-level usage guidelines
 - No student conduct framework
 - No disclosure requirements
 - No guidance for syllabi
 - No cross-college pedagogical supports
 - Chancellor advises:
 - “If I were teaching this semester, I would maintain my original syllabus AI policy.”
 - Changing a syllabus policy mid-semester was deemed inequitable and destabilizing.
- Environmental Impact Concerns
 - Discussion around the intensifying environmental footprint of AI:
 - Energy demands from AI data centers
 - Heat output and broader climate effects
 - Need for ethical consumption choices
 - Faculty asked whether CU Denver could invest in environmental offsets equivalent to the annual AI contract cost.
 - The Chancellor indicated willingness to discuss this, though some aspects depend on AHEC’s control of facilities.
- Additional concerns and request for broader conversation
 - Should CU Denver embrace AI as a responsibility?
 - Or should CU Denver distinguish itself by resisting automation and protecting “human education”?
 - Does embracing AI align with CU Denver’s mission?
 - Should faculty and students debate whether AI should be adopted at all?
 - These discussions would be welcomed through the AI Fellows, but emphasized the need to remain aligned with employer expectations and student outcomes.
- What’s Next?
 - The Provost and Chancellor outlined the role of the newly selected AI Fellows:
 - Establish ethical AI use campus policies
 - Design AI literacy expectations
 - Gather campus input
 - Build assessment methods
 - Coordinate academic integrity standards

- Draft faculty and student guidance
 - Develop a multi-year implementation plan

- The Fellows are a temporary bridge toward a more permanent institutional AI governance structure.

- Plans for a Faculty Assembly CU Denver AI Resolution
 - A separate resolution (to be voted on in April):
 - Calls for a campus AI shared-governance committee
 - Requests a more coordinated, ethical, transparent approach
 - Seeks to protect faculty autonomy and academic standards
 - This resolution was not voted on during the meeting but will return as a major agenda item next month.

New Business

Adjournment 2:24pm

Attendance

Joanne Addison

Cheryl Ansaldi

Peter Anthamatten

Eric Baker

Dr. Gisella Bassani

Thomas Beck

Dr. Wendy Bolyard

David Bondelevitch

Sasha Breger Bush

Jenny Brundin

Chancellor Ken Christensen

Michelle Comstock

Maryam Darbeheshti

Dennis DeBay

Katy DiVitorrio

Dr. Colleen Donnelly

Joni Dunlap

Miranda Egger

Larry Erbert

Sarah Fields

Rashmi Gangamma

Bryn Harris

Stephen Hartke

Amy Hasinoff

Erin Hauger

david hildebrand

Jamie Hodgkins

Lorna Hutchison

Haadi Jafarian

antwan jefferson

Betsy Jose

Julia Kantor

Turan Kayaoglu

Kristin Kilbourn

Pam Laird

Julien Langou

Jason Machado

Fernando Mancilla-David

Provost Karen Marrongelle

Kelly McCusker

Alejandra Medina

Katy Mohrman

Shuyang Peng

Flo Pfender

Mari Prestigiacomo

Elizabeth Pugliano

Jennifer Reich

Lori Ryan

Kathryn Schamu

Jeffrey Schrader

Kelly See

Vivian Shyu

Jeremy Simon

Karen Sobel

Christoph Stefes

Rachel Stein

Diana Thomback

Alan Vajda

Anthony Villano

Diana White

Mike Wunder

Flynn Zook