



Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

CU Denver Faculty Assembly -- Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2025

Hybrid

Attendees: Sasha Breger Bush, Dennis DeBay, Colleen Donnelly, Jamie Hodgkins, Sarah Fields, Wendy Bolyard, Diana White, Maryam Darbeheshti, Lisa Johansen, Katy Mohrman, Amy Hasinoff, Tom Beck, Jose Ibarra, Vivian Shyu, Peter Anthamatten, Alejandra Medina, Jeff Schrader, Kristin Kilbourne, Manish Shirgaokar, Rachel Stein, Karen Sobel, Bryn Harris, Florian Pfender, Shuyang Peng, Philip Joseph, Larry Erbert, Eric Baker, Jessica Valdez, David Bondelevitch, Jim Lopresti, Matt Shea, Rashmi Gangamma, Katy Divittorio, George Quansah, Traci Sitzmann, Alan Vajda, Anthony Villano, Jason Machado, Kelly See, Pam Jansma, Turan Kayaoglu, Genia Herndon

Secretary's Update (Jamie Hodgkins)

- **Election of new FA Chair:** (Faculty Assembly went into Executive Session during this election.)
 - Motion was made to Vote, motion was seconded; Poll posted.
 - Nominees were provided 3 minutes to address the Assembly, then asked to step away. Assembly members discussed nominee.
 - Results for Chair: Wendy Bolyard received majority vote.
- **2024/25 FA Award:** Secretary requested additional nominations from FA. None have been received to date. A virtual vote will be held before the May meeting.

Chair's Update (Sasha Breger Bush)

- **Approve minutes** (March 4, 2025)
- Motion was made to Approve, motion was seconded; Poll posted.
 - Results for March 4, 2025, Minutes: approved by a majority.
- **Call for Representatives:**
 - Faculty Advisory Committee to Auraria Board (FACAB). They meet once per month for 1.5 hours throughout the academic year.
 - Integrative Planning Group (IPG). Attempts to meet once per month, though the schedule may vary.
 - Educational Policy and University Standards (EPUS). David Tracer continues to serve as the rep to EPUS, which is one of the main system-level faculty policy bodies. EPUS meets twice per month for two hours. A new rep will be needed.
- **FCQ Letters:** As discussed last month, the Office of Equity is no longer issuing FCQ-related letters. A follow-up conversation with AVC Elizabeth Schrock clarified that while previously issued letters cannot be expunged or deleted from records, they are open to speaking with anyone who may have concerns. These letters will not be placed in personnel files. FA Chair can also facilitate an introduction to AVC Schrock if needed.
- **Financial Foresight Sessions:** EVC Ann Sherman is inviting all faculty to participate in two Financial Foresight sessions in response to the current budget situation. These sessions are opportunities for faculty to share observations on potential areas of waste and suggest cost-saving ideas.
 - Session 1: Tuesday, April 8, 12:30 – 1:30 PM (in person, location TBD)
 - Session 2: Monday, April 14, 2-3 PM (via Zoom)
- **Shared Governance Update:** FA Chair extended her appreciation to AVC Turan Kayaoglu and Peter Anthamatten for their work on shared governance. Everyone should have received an email this morning outlining recommendations to strengthen faculty shared governance. This work builds upon the 2024 State of Faculty Shared Governance Report. Below are key recommendations for FA:

- Support faculty governance structures within schools and colleges, acknowledging that governance varies across units. FA can strengthen communication and engagement with governance leads in each school/college.
- Encourage reciprocal communication so that information discussed in FA is shared back with local governance bodies across campus.
- Model effective shared governance practices.
- For more information, visit the Shared Governance at CU Denver project website:
<https://www.ucdenver.edu/offices/faculty-affairs/shared-governance-at-cu-denver>

Provost's Update (Pamela Jansma)

- **Dean of College of Architecture and Planning (CAP):** The search concluded successfully. David Rifkind, currently at the University of Florida will be joining as Dean on July 1.
- **Vice Chancellor for Strategic Enrollment and Student Success (SESS):** Zoom interviews are taking place this week. Finalists are expected to visit campus in the next couple of weeks.
- **Vice Chancellor for Marketing and Communications:** Candidates are on campus this week. Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend the open forums.
- **Library Director:** Search is underway. The committee is developing a rubric, with campus visits expected toward the end of April.
- **Provost Search:** Application deadline has closed. The committee is reviewing applications, with semi-finalists to be interviewed via Zoom. Finalists will visit late April.
- **Council of Graduate Schools (CGS):** The CGS report has not yet been received. Planning for the next FY includes distributing funds as in previous years. Over the summer, a faculty working group will convene to explore how to best leverage \$440K in recurring funds. One time funding of \$1.5M is also available over the next few years. CGS recommendations will also be reviewed as part of this process.
- **Program Viability:** Presentations and workshops are progressing well.
- **Office of Advancement:** FA members requested that advancement reports shared with deans also be made available to faculty and staff. Provost agreed to request that these reports are more broadly accessible. FA member provided the following link for additional information:
<https://www.cu.edu/doc/bormfsfundraisingpdf> . Another FA member noted that the Alumni network is underutilized.

Resolution on Administration and Article V Discussion (Sasha Breger Bush)

- These two resolutions were initially brought to the FA Executive Committee in January, stemming from an ongoing conversation that began in Fall 2024. The idea for the Resolution on Administration emerged during a discussion with Provost Nakuma about the four existing Academic Transformation Working Groups. A suggestion was made in October to consider a fifth group focused on administrative structure and finances—an area not currently addressed with the same transparency as academic and operational areas.
- Feedback from FA in December indicated mixed views on both resolutions. Both were circulated to FA in advance of the February meeting.
- Discussion points from FA members: There was recognition that traditional administrative reviews have not been particularly effective. However, the intent behind the proposed fifth working group is to examine the structure of administration with a goal of improving and potentially restructuring systems and responsibilities.
- Some members expressed support for the *content* of the resolution but felt that advancing it at this time may not be appropriate. Many of the underlying concerns have already been raised with leadership, and recent changes—including the appointment of the interim provost—reflect that these concerns are being heard. There was concern that the resolutions could be interpreted as adversarial rather than collaborative.
- Others emphasized the importance of continuing to advocate for increased transparency in administrative operations moving forward.

- A question was raised regarding whether there is a specific timeline for revisiting the resolutions if they are tabled.
- It was noted that the resolutions are strongly worded and that since they have already been circulated, the administration is aware of their content.
- The group affirmed the desire to work collaboratively and in partnership with the Chancellor and Provost on matters of administrative structure and governance.
- A motion was made to vote on these resolutions; motion was seconded; Poll posted.
 - Results: Approved to table both resolutions.
 - They may be reintroduced at a later time through a new motion.

Mental Health Update (AVC Genia Herndon)

- AVC Herndon presented on the Mental Health and Wellbeing fee being proposed to enhance student wellbeing through expanded support training and increased staffing. A vote on the proposed Mental Health and Wellbeing Fee will open Monday, April 7th and remain live for two weeks.
- The vote will impact not only mental health services but also student leadership and other initiatives that support the student experience. It is open to all undergraduate and graduate students.
- For the measure to be considered by the Regents, at least 10% of the student body (approximately 1,500 students) must participate in the vote.
- Faculty Assembly is encouraged to help promote awareness among students. A QR code for voting will be available starting April 7th and can also be shared by FA Chair.
- If the vote does not pass, current services will remain, but capacity will be stretched more thinly, limiting the university's ability to meet student needs.

End Meeting