CU Denver Faculty Assembly Meeting
October 1st, 2019
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
LSC, Chancellors Conf. Room

DRAFT Minutes

Attendees: Michael Zinser, Brent Wilson, Jeremy Nemeth, Marta Maron, Linda Fried, Cristina Gillanders, Tod Duncan, Peter Anthamatten, Jamie Sutliff, Lucy Dwight, Kelly McCusker, Geoff Johnson, David Bondelevitch, Diana White, Lonnie Schaible, Jeffrey Schrader, Vivian Shyu, Angela Gover, Geeta Verma, Shea Swauger, Colleen Donnelly, Steffen Borgwardt, Christy Briles, Rebecca Hunt, Diana Tomback, Sondra Bland, Maryam Darbeheshti, Tammy Stone, Bruce Neumann, Provost Nairn, President Kennedy, Michael Lightner, Lee Potter

12:00 PM  Michael Zinser - CU Denver Faculty Assembly Chair
  • Meeting brought to order.

12:05 PM  Roderick Nairn, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
  • Chancellor Horrell has announced her retirement. Chancellor Reddy from Colorado Springs will be chairing that search committee.
  • Business school Dean search committee has started, Paul Teske is the chair. They are planning on using a search firm, which they are hoping to finalize today.
    o The Springs is also looking for a Business School Dean
    o Boulder just named an interim Business School Dean.
    o DU just hired a new Dean
  • The VC Faculty Affairs Search was not successful; the issues were salary-based. There is a team that is covering that position in the interim. They are planning on advertising for the position soon.
  • The search for the VC Diversity and Inclusion will be starting soon. The search committee is being finalized. There is an interim structure in place.
  • There was a large restructuring in student affairs, and they are going to be starting the search for the Vice Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor for Student Access and Achievement position soon.
  • We have an enrollment challenge this year, we are down about 2% in enrollment, which is a 2% deficit in the budget. There is a plan on how to deal with the deficit, and they are working on a plan for how to improve enrollment numbers.
12:30 PM  Michael Zinser - CU Denver Faculty Assembly Chair
• David Bondelevitch Votes to approve September Minutes, Tammy Stone Seconds  
  o Minutes approved.
• A vote is called to support the CAM Program discontinuance. Jeffrey Schrader Statement  
  regarding the program in appendix A.  
  o The vote was unanimously approved.
• Mark Heredia came to give an update on the Fresh Start Program Policy.  
  o The policy will hopefully have a final draft next week, and then it will go for a legal  
    review, Provost review, and finally the Chancellor’s approval.
• Peter Anthamatten leads a discussion regarding Interfolio, which is the proposed Faculty  
  Information System. Before the system is moved forward for final approval, they wanted to  
  hear from the Faculty Assembly. The Assembly votes 22 yes, one no, and six abstain to  
  approve the system.

12:45 PM  Jamie Sutliff – President of the Student Government Association
Introduction
• Jamie Sutliff introduces herself as the new SGA President

12:50 PM  Mia Fischer – Vice Chair of the LGBTQ+ Committee
Committee Update and Introduction of Memo
• The committee had their first meeting in September, and they heard from some  
  constituents who were concerned about the amount of representation on the search  
  committee. They have drafted a letter regarding this View letter in appendix B. Their hope is  
  to get this letter turned into a Faculty Assembly memo, and voted on by the Assembly.

1:00 PM  President Kennedy
Strategic Plan and Questions
• President Kennedy gave an update on his strategic plan. To review this plan visit  
  https://www.cu.edu/strategic-planning.
• For a detailed list of the questions that were asked, view the questions in the appendix C.
• Regarding the Chancellor’s Search, Chancellor Reddy will be chairing the search. There will  
  be an RFP for a search firm. They are committed to having a diverse search committee, that  
  reflects our campus.
• The Faculty Assembly brought forward a few details they would like the search committee  
  to focus on.  
  o The Assembly feels like it is important they have knowledge of fundraising, have  
    experience coming up through the ranks of higher education, knowledge of urban  
    campuses, and an individual who has a vision of the university as an agent for social  
    change and not just as an education institute.

2:00 PM  Meeting Adjourned
The faculty of the Film and Television Department in the College of Arts & Media, in response to evolving student demand and changes in faculty, voted unanimously (11-0) in August 2019 to seek discontinuance of the BA degree in Theater, Film, and Television.

This BA degree is a remnant from when the department had a vibrant theater program. However, the department currently has a BFA degree with students specializing in Film and Television, where student interest and demand have been much stronger than in the Theater BA.

In 2014, after years of declining enrollment by students, the Department stopped admitting students into the BA program in Theater. Faculty in theater have retired, moved away, or retooled away from the BA program to teach in the BFA degree.

No students are now enrolled in the BA in Theater, so discontinuing the BA program will affect neither students nor the remaining faculty.

The dean of the College and Arts & Media supports the faculty of the Film and Television program to discontinue the BA and to move full steam ahead with the BFA degree.
16 September 2019

CU Denver Faculty Assembly
Michael Zinser, Chair
1380 Lawrence Street Center
Denver, CO 80204

RE: Search for a new Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion

Dear CU Denver Faculty Assembly:

The membership of the LGBTQ+ Faculty Assembly Committee write to express concern regarding the search for a replacement for Dr. Brenda Allen in the position of Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion. It has been brought to our attention that there is no representative from any of the centers on campus that serve various student populations (e.g., Black Student Services, Women and Gender Center, etc.) on the search committee. Given the import of this position, we are concerned about whether the search committee currently provides underrepresented groups a voice in the process.

Further, we believe spreading Dr. Allen’s former duties among several individuals in other positions has diluted a clear focus on diversity and inclusion issues. While no fault of any one individual tasked with more responsibilities, the result appears to be a lack of clear and attentive leadership. It appears that one consequence of this leadership void was the abrupt cancellation of the Diversity Dialogue on LGBTQ+ issues.

While we understand that preparations are underway to conduct these sessions in the future, attention to the concerns of the LGBTQ+ community is urgent. Those who shared stories with the Diversity Dialogue hoping for attention and change feel silenced and are disappointed in the outcome. It may be necessary to appoint an acting Vice Chancellor, or, at the least, clarify how diversity and inclusion matters will be handled until a suitable, qualified replacement for Dr. Allen can be found.

The LGBTQ+ Committee asks the Faculty Assembly to pursue these matters with CU Denver administration. We also request a response from the administration regarding our concerns.

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

Dale Stahl
Chair, LGBTQ+ FA Committee
Appendix C
Q and A:

Q. Dianna Tomback – Do we have a plan for supporting innovations such as undergraduate curriculum given that
funding is always a challenge for implementation of innovation?
A. Acknowledges challenges given other big issues such as deferred maintenance. Perhaps seed money, process
for quick determination of outcomes. Described process of prioritization for investment opportunities.
Q. Geeta Verma – Scholarship of knowledge but also integration and application. We are leaders in student
success but we do not have an office of technology transfer or similar as does Anschutz and Boulder. Throwing
out that this campus also needs innovation office.
A. Most of these offices are not focused on innovative educational offerings. That actually could be a good idea,
especially as a revenue source. It would work as a system effort.
Q. Shea Swauger – Circle back to 4th Industrial Revolution. So much of the SP is predicated on this, but he
doesn’t see this as having a lot of academic support. It is largely not supported by scholarship. Odd to see it so
prominent, and critical that even if it were supported, that we should lean into it because of massive gender and
racial inequity issues inherent in this. Please respond.
A. It is not academia’s choice whether this is happening to the extent that it’s going to affect many people, and we
need to address those types of questions head on. How does it affect the economic underpinnings? We need to
prepare our students for what is happening.
Internet of things, artificial intelligence, machine learning, ever more powerful. This construct is as important to
the humanities and social sciences as it is to the technological disciplines.
Lightner – Ethical issues are huge, the requirement that we prepare students for the policy discussions around this
are huge. Much broader than technological aspect.
Q. Rebecca Hunt – What do you see as the role of traditional liberal arts in this new world?
A. Just spoke to this. They say that more than half of all high school students will work at jobs that haven’t even
been created yet. The liberal arts facilitate critical thinking, diversity, teamwork. Part of the challenge is that a big
drive in managing costs is concurrent or dual enrollment so that a lot of the liberal arts education has already been
completed before they come to us. How do we ensure that everyone who gets a CU diploma gets that?
Q. Colleen Donnelly – I noticed the change in the structure of the SP process. How do faculty who lead in
curriculum and innovation have been involved already in decision-making, not just working groups that have yet
to meet?
A. Michael Lightner – Faculty Council has been contacted, but the groups are mostly set. They’re not to decide
but to explore.
Q. Follow-up from Colleen-- Are there faculty involved now?
A. Lightner – Yes [recounts faculty representation in these working groups]. Outreach group, not decision-making
group.
A. Kennedy – Groups will explore what campuses need for the initiatives …
Q. Diane White – Groups refer to the nine working groups?
A. Academic Innovation Group
Q. Brent Wilson – Curious about consultants for online education? How will that feed into Strategic Planning
initiative?
A. Have added member of Faculty Council to the review committee.
Q. Brent Wilson -- Fear that some of the activity around online education focuses on commodification rather than
curricular and pedagogical framework. Need integrate approach, focus on quality.
A. Digital applications related to educational delivery will continue. Very much of what is offered online is not
experiential.
Q. Lucy Dwight – Our digital education offerings are mature – long standing and extensive. What does this
assessment mean for the process we already have for online offerings?
A. Need to take the best of what is already working and apply it more broadly across the system.
Q. Christina Gillanders – How would the characteristics of each campus be represented in the Strategic Plan?
Specifically, our students, our course delivery are unique.
A. Based right in the urban city. Having a focus on this setting – our Architecture, etc., focus on urban issues.
Diverse student body, which attracts other students but also creates potential to diversity a number of professions.