



College of Arts & Media

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

March 29, 2021

To: CAM Faculty and Staff
From: Larry Kaptain, Dean
Subject: Dean's Message and Student Survey Data

Dear Colleagues,

- 1) April will be a big month for CU Denver—and of course CAM. The campus will have interviewed 4-Provost candidates, 5-Senior Vice Chancellor of Student Life candidates, 4-Managing Director for Partnerships and Innovation candidates, and CAM's 3-Associate Dean for Transdisciplinary Research & Innovation candidates.

Here is the latest tally on numbers of Associate Deans and Assistant Deans in the Colleges: CLAS—7, Education—6, Business—5, Engineering—5, SPA—3, CAP—3, and CAM—2.

This CAM position is essential—as our unit has been too dependent on CAM Faculty Development Funds, and ORS Funds. Any new Provost will give their attention to this immediately, upon accepting the position. There will also be a national search for an AVC of Research. We are grateful for the support that Bob Damraruer has provided to our faculty. In every meeting I had with him he reminded me that ORS funds should be used to attract external funds.

- 2) The [Board of Regents](#) will be meeting on April 8th, 2021, and it is anticipated that they will make final decisions regarding tuition, fees and compensation at that time. Once those critical pieces are determined, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance will meet with Karen Ludington and me—and we should then gain an idea of what our budget will look like for FY 21-22. I will then convene the Executive Committee and we can begin having informed discussions regarding budget allocations. I will also rely on CAM's Budget Priorities Committee to make recommendations. Once I hear the “wants”, Karen and Anthony will run the numbers, and then I will make decisions based on the input I received from the Chairs (and the BPC) on the needs of the College. Here are some of our CAM priorities:

- **EDI**
- **Enrollment**
- **Faculty Attainment**
- **Research & Creative Work**
- **Student Success**
- **Student Survey Data**

A part of my thinking about the big picture, comes from the Boards of Directors that I serve on: Arts Schools Network (principals of the nation's arts schools), and the

Strategic National Arts Alumni Project (Presidents of the School of the Chicago Art Institute, Maryland Institute of Creativity and the Arts, Cornish College, Vice Provost of the Pratt Institute, Deans/Directors from CU Denver, Juilliard, UT Austin, ASU, Penn State, Vanderbilt, IUPUI, and research directors from Indiana University and the University of Illinois. Participation in these organizations and what I learn from other board members provides a large part of how I shape my thinking and decision making.

- 3) The Student Survey that was administered in December 2020 is very illuminating. So that data needs to influence decision making in budgetary decisions. We had 208 responses out of 1249 surveys issued. Freshman through seniors were surveyed and the differences between 1st and 4th year students was statistically insignificant. Our 208 out of 1249 has a +/- 5% margin of error, and 384 respondents out of 1,000,000 has the same error range. So, these numbers are solid indicators of student perceptions. On the attached deck—to make it easier to read; low scores (1s & 2s) are combined and high scores (3s and 4s). The questions in this survey are directly related to transferable and professional practice skills. They come from the SNAAP report—a survey of arts and design alumni administered to over 200,000 individuals, and 300 institutions. 200,000 is a pretty good sample size. The Indiana University Center on Post-Secondary Education helped shape SNAAP—and they administer the annual National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE). Since 2000, there have been over 1,600 colleges and universities that have opted to participate in the survey. Additionally, approximately 5 million students within those institutions have completed the engagement survey. Please contact Kristen Barrett if you would like to receive the detail from this survey, on every degree program—and the associated data. It is very illuminating and can help guide enhancements in teaching and learning.
- 4) I, too, will consider the findings of the EDI Task Force Culture Survey as they are analyzed in the coming weeks by members of the Task Force in partnership with Ian Whitman, Senior Data Analyst, [Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness](#). These sweeping data include the voices of 417 of our 1193 students (35%) and 100 of our 141 faculty/staff (71%) and should prove critical to decision-making as CAM strives to become a more equitable college.