

CU Denver Faculty Assembly Meeting

March 01st, 2022
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Zoom

Minutes

Attendees: Colleen Donnelly, Peter Anthamatten, Jarrod Hanson, Jaedo Park, Kelly See, Andrew Friedson, Kevin Seeber, Maryam Darbeheshti, Paul Taylor, Xiaojun Ren, Melissa Tackett-Gibson, Dennis DeBay, Ilkyeun Ra, Thorsten Spehn, Joann Brennan, Lawrence Cunningham, Todd Ely, Fernando Mancilla-David, Gregory Ragland, Jeremy Nemeth, Mia Fischer, Eric Baker, Inge Wefes, Constancio Nakuma, Vivian Shyu, Lee Potter, Brad Hinson, Thomas Beck, Larry Erbert, Karen Sobel, Yang Wang, Diana Tomback, Esther Sullivan, Linda Fried, Sondra Bland, Eric Jewett, Wendy Bolyard, Chris Puckett, Geeta Verma

(12:00 PM)

Jarrod Hanson, Chair of the Denver Faculty Assembly

- Approval of February Minutes, Motion Peter Anthamatten, Thomas Beck Seconded. Minutes Unanimously Approved.

(12:05 PM)

Constancio Nakuma, Provost CU Denver and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs

- The Position for the Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs has been posted.
- The Graduate school is undergoing some changes.
 - Behind the changes is a desire to look at our campus' graduate education and make investments in our graduate education to support our research goals within the strategic plan. They want to be as supportive as CU Denver can be of the Research mission.
 - Moving forward on the CU Denver Campus our graduate services will be brought into the administrative structures that are in place already to serve the undergraduate student services within the schools and colleges. The goal is to not have two separate administrative structures in place to serve our students and better align our efforts.
 - They do not want any employees in the graduate school to suffer from this change. They will be meeting with the employees to go over each of their job descriptions and have them reflect on what they do, and their areas of passion. The hope is to help each employee end up in a good place.
 - Cost savings were not the main goal of this realignment, the main goal was to improve the coordination of services within the schools and colleges, as well as build a strong foundation for investment in our graduate services.

(12:30)

Jarrod Hanson, Chair of the Denver Faculty Assembly

- Eric Baker gave a brief update on the IRC Taskforce.

- The Taskforce has been working tirelessly with internal departments and support from the administration. The Taskforce is going to be doing Listening Sessions for IRC Faculty. An email with more details will be going out soon. A major focus of the taskforce's work has been equity focused.
- Peter Anthamatten gave an update on the Faculty Assembly Elections.
 - Running for Vice Chair: David Bondelevitch and Vivian Shyu
 - Running for Secretary: Dennis DeBay
 - We will be voting on these positions at our next meeting.
- CU Denver has three representatives for the Faculty Senate Grievance Committee that needed reapproval.
 - The Assembly Approved all three, with one abstention for each candidate.
- Faculty Council is thinking about making a brief statement regarding divestment from Russian Entities. CU Denver does not have any research activity with Russia so this will not directly affect our institution.
 - Although we do not have investments in Russia, there was a push that we should make a statement regardless to denounce Russia's action.
 - There was a thought that we should maybe make a broader statement that looks at denouncing all acts of evil some that have been smaller and overlooked.
 - Jarrod will pass on that broadly the CU Denver Faculty Assembly supports divesting from Russia, they would like a statement of support for Russian scholars and researchers, and a hope that the University would reflect on the morale impacts of their investments.
- There is going to be a strategic plan implementation advisory council convened soon. We will need faculty to serve in that space, and our voice is important. If you have recommendations for individuals who would like to be on this group, please contact Jarrod.
- We are looking for nominations for the CU Denver Faculty Assembly Award. This is an individual who has advanced shared governance from our campus.

(1:00 PM)

Wendy Bolyard, Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Campus Director and Clinical Assistant Professor

- Dr. Bolyard joined the assembly to give the assembly an update on the collective bargaining bill that is currently in the house. This bill emerged from the United Colorado Workers of Colorado. Most public employees in CO don't have explicit collective bargaining agreements. This bill would establish those rights.

(1:15 PM)

Chris Puckett, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for COVID-19 and Managing Associate University Counsel

- Chris Puckett joined the assembly to discuss the changes to the University's masking policy. Our mask optional policy meets the requirements of the CDC's mask optional status. On the 7th there will be a loosening of restrictions on in person events. People continue to be tested on our campus, and they have not made a final decision on whether a booster is going to be required. Around 90% of staff and faculty eligible for the booster have received it. For students about 70% of those eligible have been boosted.

(1:30 PM)

Karen Sobel, Director of the Center for Faculty Development and Advancement

- The CFDA has just resubscribed to the National Center for Development and Diversity (NCFDD). There are a lot of amazing resources that will become available to our community through this subscription. They are hiring a Faculty Fellow to help with implementation of NCFDD on our campus. You can explore the new resources at the following: <https://www.ucdenver.edu/centers/cfda>.
- The CFDA is in the process of hiring an Assistant Director, with hopes of them starting in the summer. They will be reviewing candidates mid-March. The position is .5 FTE, for faculty of any rank with 3 or

more years of experience. For more information about this position or if you are interested, please reach out to Karen Sobel.

(1:45)

Committee Reports

- **Educational Policy and Planning Committee**
 - They had a conversation on the public employee collective bargaining bill. They started talking more about the late withdrawal processes and will be wrapping up work on the syllabus policy shortly.

- **Learning, Educational, Technology, Teaching and Scholarship Committee**
 - LETTS has been looking at test proctoring. They will be creating a professional development course on test proctoring. They continue to work with AHEC and OIT to look at the AHEC classrooms. The North Classroom 3rd floor rooms are CU Denver spaces, a request was made to get money from the provost to upgrade those spaces during the summer. The Provost agreed to those funds, and the project will happen in the summer.

- **Committee on the Status of Women**
 - The CSW got together with the Center for Women and Gender. They have started a collaboration on what the needs of the students are, and how we can better serve them.

- **Ethnic Diversity Committee**
 - They are waiting for the Chancellor's response to their proposal. They are also looking at the most recent strategic plan update, they have some concerns about data in that update that focused on the recruitment of faculty of color on our campus. They have questions about the accuracy of the data.

- **Disabilities Committee**
 - There will be another CETL session about teaching students with accommodations. They are in the final phases of planning a symposium for the fall.

- **Budget Priority Committee**
 - They are monitoring the state system and the campus budget processes. They are working with the administration to develop more budget transparency mechanisms. There has been good participation on the Todd Talks, which is the update from the CFO.

(2:00)

Meeting Adjourned