

CU Denver Faculty Assembly Meeting

September 7th, 2020

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

RH1 2230 / Zoom

Minutes

Attendees: Paul Taylor, Jaedo Park, Andrew Friedson, Mia Fischer, Vivian Shyu, Ilkyeun Ra, Lee Potter, Dennis DeBay, Candan Duran-aydintug, Antonio Farias, Todd Ely, Esther Sullivan, Brad Hinson, Cristina Gillanders, Lisa Kelly, Jarrod Hanson, Kelly See, Eric Baker, Melissa Tackett-Gibson, Linda Fried, Jeffrey Schrader, Kathy Kelsey, David Bondelevitch, Lawrence Cunningham, Jeremy Nemeth, Sondra Bland, Tod Duncan, Geeta Verma, Thomas Beck, Colleen Donnelly, Diane Tomback, Eric Jewett, Lawrence Cunningham, Peter Anthamatten, Fernando Mancilla-David, Michel Lightner, Callie Rennison, Jack Kroll, Jeremy Hueth, Lesley Smith, Xiaojun Ren, Ken McConnellogue, Michael Zinser, Provost Nakuma, Chancellor Marks, Monique Snowden

(12:00 PM)

Michelle Marks, Chancellor, CU Denver

- o Chancellor Marks joined the Assembly to welcome in the new academic year. She reflected on her work over the last year and expressed the importance of collaborative shared governance.
- o Our COVID-19 numbers are very good compared to other institutions. Of those reporting we are at 98% vaccination rate for faculty and staff, and around 93% for students. The campus has also implemented an indoor masking policy.
- o They are working towards how they will start to implement the Chancellor's new 10-year strategic plan. There are 5 main goals to help us become an equity serving institution.
- o Katie Linder, our new AVC for Digital Learning and Strategy will be taking our campus through a process of looking at what we want our campus vision for digital strategy and learning to be.

(12:15)

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

- o Provost Nakuma joined his first CU Denver Faculty Assembly meeting. He noted that his main plan is to help implement the strategic plan that was put together.
- o One of his first initiatives is addressing the concerns of the IRC Faculty. UCDALI has made several recommendations regarding concerns about IRC Faculty. He has brought together a taskforce led by Joann Brennan to bring to light the concerns of the IRC Faculty and bring forward recommendations for change.
- o Provost Nakuma will also be hosting Research-focused event open to our CU Denver Community. It will be an open forum where individuals pitch what research they will be doing. It will also allow for collaboration. A second session will be hosted to share what brainstorming has been done by the newly formed teams.
- o He is also working hard to fill open vacancies. A search for a chief research officer for our campus should be identified by next year July 1st.

(12:25 PM)

Monique Snowden, Senior Vice Chancellor for Strategic Enrollment and Student Success

- o Senior Vice Chancellor Monique Snowden joined her first Faculty Assembly meeting to discuss her plans for the year.
- o This year we doubled our non-resident students. However, there is still a challenge around our continuing students, and this isn't a new challenge for us. Our first term persistence is an area that we need to focus on. Our first-year retention rates are respectable, but our graduation rates are not where we need them to be.
- o She is focused on the strategic goal of becoming a university for life. She believes that faculty need greater support, and she is shoring up the student success area. Margaret Wood's role is expanding from Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Achievement to Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Achievement and Student Success.

(12:30 PM)

Antonio Farias, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

- o Vice Chancellor Antonio Farias joined the assembly for the first time to discuss his plans for the year. He has looked over the work that was being done here at CU Denver and is very impressed. He would like to work on breaking down the silos that academia is known for. It is important to him that everyone find themselves and value in becoming an equity serving institution. Part of that is asking ourselves what we have done, and what we are doing to inhibit our students from reaching maximum potential. It is important to take a look at all of these things through a critical lens.
- o He is in the process of regenerating the Center for Identity, and he wants people to know that this work on campus will not be completed by just hiring more individuals, it will be done by all of us. It will be completed by growing our capacity as an institution to address EDI issues.

(12:45 PM)

Presidential Search Listening Tour

- o A group of the Board of Regents joined the Faculty Assembly to discuss the next Presidential Search. They were looking for feedback on the last search, and what they could do moving forward. One of the main issues brought forward was the lack of transparency, specifically in the number of finalist candidates. Another concern was hiring a President that speaks for our campuses on EDI issues and is not just reactive but proactive in their communication. Political knowledge, and understanding Colorado was also brought up. Finding an individual who values all the campuses is also something the Assembly wanted to bring up. Fundraising, and distribution of funds was also brought up to the Regents.

(1:00 PM)

Jarrod Hanson, Chair of the Faculty Assembly

- o Jarrod thanked everyone for their participation in the Faculty Assembly this year. He then opened up the floor for individuals to bring forward areas of concern.
- o Karen Sobel brought forward faculty concerns from the Center for Faculty Development. There were concerns about return to campus, and nervousness around being in person. Anxieties around the abruptness of possible change in life circumstances and the disruptions that may cause.
- o Colleen Donnelly brought up concerns around mental health services for Faculty. What access to those services looked like, and what we are doing for Faculty Wellness.
- o Larry Ebert had concerns about transparency during decision making processes.
 - Vivian Shyu echoed that concern and brought up the CTT dossier change.

(2:00)

Meeting Adjourned