



## **FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER EXPECTATIONS**

*February 3, 2026*

Shared governance is essential in higher education as institutions face unprecedented pressures including financial constraints, increased competition for students, heightened demands for accountability, and expectations to do more with fewer resources—often within a volatile federal policy environment. As CU Denver addresses these challenges, a unified faculty voice is critical to protecting academic standards, advancing the educational mission, and ensuring that decisions affecting teaching, research, and faculty work are informed by those closest to the university’s core purpose.

Faculty governance is the system through which faculty collectively participate in shaping academic policies, standards, and institutional decisions, in partnership with university administration. Faculty Assembly (FA) members represent the faculty in shared governance by contributing to decision-making related to academic policy, institutional planning, faculty affairs, and the preservation of academic freedom, and by serving as a formal advisory body to campus leadership. This authority and responsibility derive from the Laws of the Regents, Article 5:

*It is a guiding principle of the shared governance recognized by the Board of Regents that the faculty and the administration shall collaborate in major decisions affecting the academic welfare of the university. The nature of that collaboration, shared as appropriate with students and staff, varies according to the nature of the decisions in question.*

CU Denver can succeed only by aligning strategy, culture, and daily practice around a collective vision. Shared governance provides the structure for this alignment by fostering meaningful communication, collaboration, and trust among faculty, administrators, staff, and students. Through shared governance, FA members contribute expertise to strategic planning, assessment, and continuous improvement, ensuring decisions are grounded in academic values and student needs. Shared governance promotes transparency, reduces organizational silos, and strengthens shared ownership and accountability enhancing CU Denver’s ability to differentiate itself, execute strategy, and remain resilient in a rapidly changing higher education landscape.

This document outlines expectations for CU Denver Faculty Assembly members. These expectations are grounded in shared governance principles and aligned with Regents Laws and Policies as well as the Faculty Assembly [Constitution](#) and [Bylaws](#). Faculty Assembly committees may also maintain their own bylaws.

## University of Colorado Faculty Governance Structure

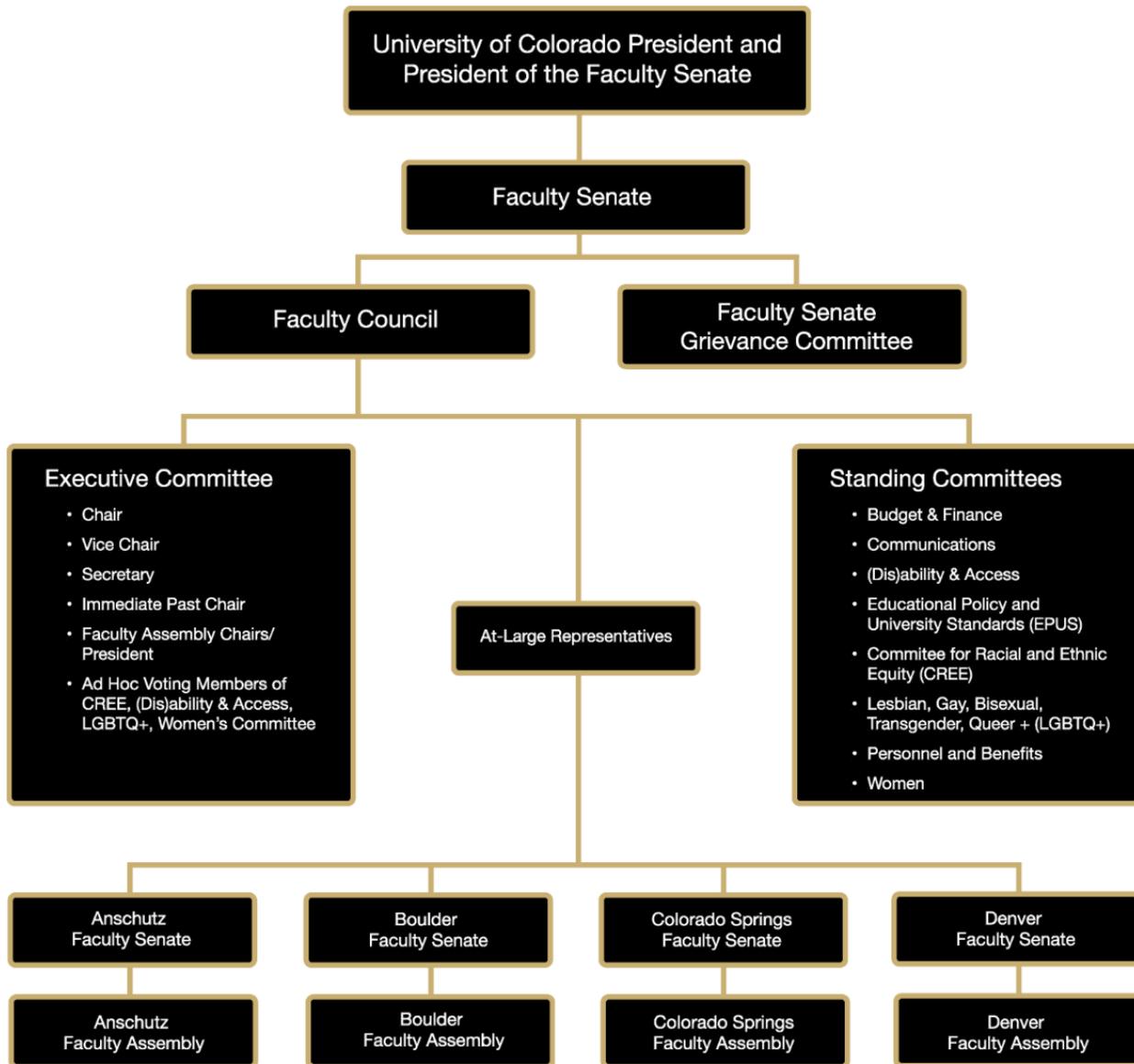


Figure 1: CU Governance Structure (<https://www.cu.edu/faculty/governance-structure>)

### Core Role and Responsibility

Faculty Assembly members serve as representatives of the faculty in the shared governance process. They participate in decisions related to academic policy, institutional planning, and faculty affairs, and advise campus leadership.

## Participation and Engagement

Faculty Assembly members are expected to:

- Attend and actively participate in regular Faculty Assembly meetings (typically eight per academic year) and any additional required meetings.
- Prepare for meetings by reviewing agendas, motions, reports, and distributed materials in advance.
- Engage in discussion, debate, and voting on motions, resolutions, and policy recommendations within the Assembly's jurisdiction.
- Communicate regularly with colleagues in their represented unit (college, school, or library), serving as a conduit for faculty concerns, questions, and feedback.
  - Information discussed in open meetings may be shared with discretion. Matters discussed in closed or executive session are confidential and must not be shared.
  - Meeting minutes are posted on the [FA website](#) and may be distributed by members. Information discussed in meetings may be shared prior to the posting of official minutes.

Faculty Assembly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month during the academic year. Meetings are open to CU Denver faculty, the media, and the public.

## Attendance and Service

- Members are elected to three-year terms and are expected to attend all scheduled meetings. Absences should be communicated in advance to the Chair or Secretary.
- Three unexcused absences within one academic year may result in loss of eligibility to serve, following notice after the second unexcused absence.
- Service is expected to be professional, constructive, and non-disruptive. Members whose service is deemed incompetent or disruptive may be subject to recall, with due process.

## Committee Service

Faculty Assembly consists of elected (selected or appointed) members from colleges, schools, and the library as well as committee officers and members. Committee officers (chair, vice chair, secretary, as defined by the FA or committee bylaws) are elected by their committees no later than end of May each year. Officers and committee members serve staggered three-year terms.

Committee chairs serve as members of FA's Executive Committee and are expected to attend FA meetings. Committee members may attend regular FA meetings, though attendance is not required.

Committees review policies, develop recommendations, and report to the Faculty Assembly. Committee chairs are expected to report regularly, submit annual written reports, and ensure committee meetings occur at least monthly during the academic year.

### **Governance and Procedures**

Faculty Assembly members are expected to follow established governance procedures, including rules related to motions, amendments, quorum, and voting. Members should respect parliamentary process, FA leadership, and agreed-upon timelines. Participation in elections for officers and committee leadership is expected, as is adherence to the integrity and confidentiality of voting processes.

Members should uphold shared governance principles and inspire faculty participation as schedules allow. Succession planning is essential to continuity and faculty are encouraged to engage in Faculty Assembly activities in some capacity.

### **Representation and Ethical Expectations**

Faculty Assembly officers and members act in the best interests of the faculty as a whole, rather than representing only individual units or personal priorities. Collegiality, professionalism, and respect, are paramount in deliberations. Transparency helps ensure faculty are informed about Faculty Assembly actions and decisions.

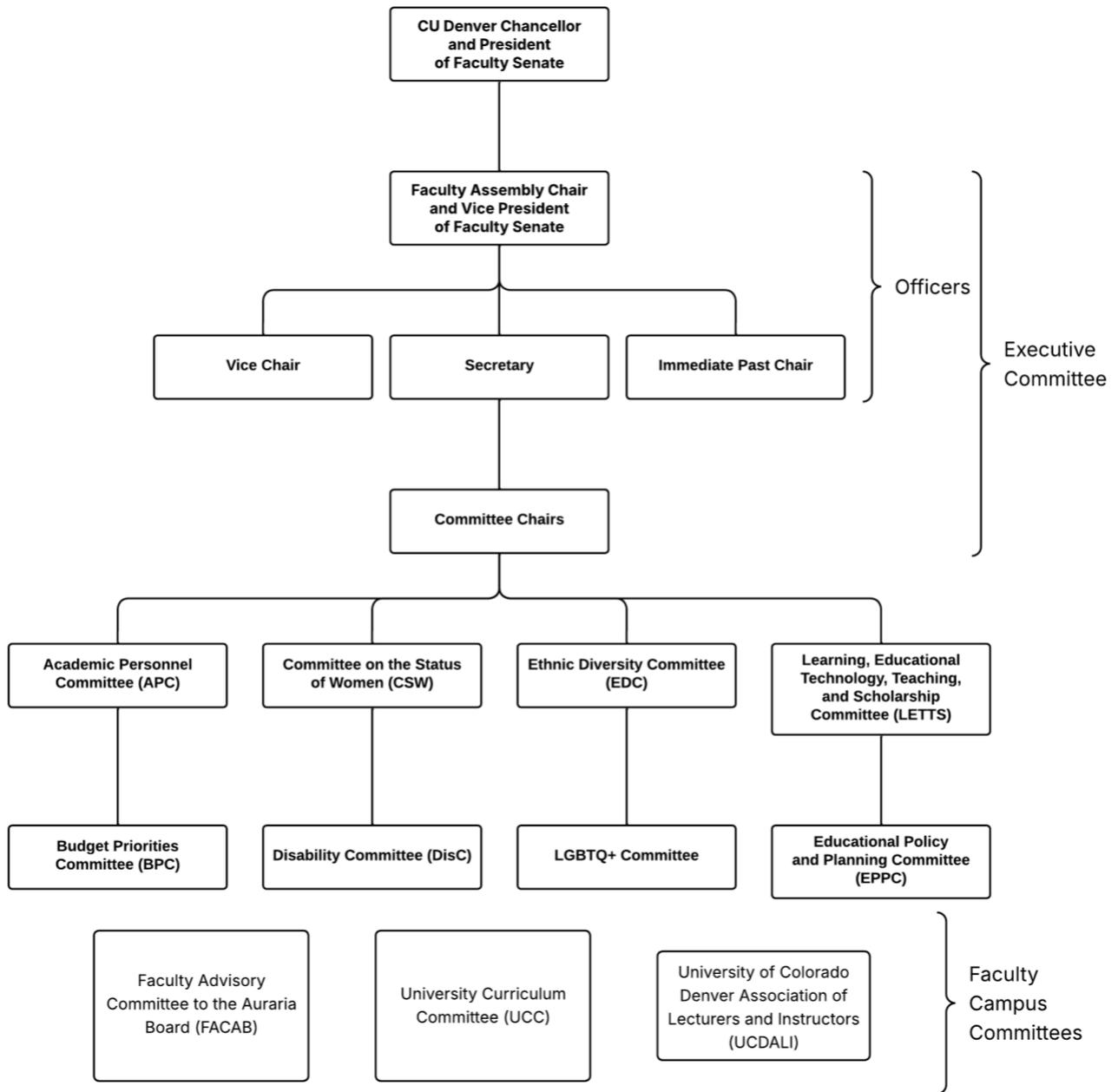
### **System Governance and Other Faculty Committees**

CU Denver faculty also play a key role in University of Colorado system-wide shared governance (see Figure 1). In accordance with the FA Bylaws, the appropriate Faculty Assembly committee recommends appointments to system-wide committees to the FA Executive Committee by May 1 each year.

The Executive Committee advances nominations to Faculty Council, Faculty Senate, system committees, and the system-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee. In addition, representatives are appointed to the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board (FACAB) and the Auraria Integrative Planning Group (IPG) to ensure CU Denver is fully represented in key decision-making processes.

There are many opportunities to participate in shared governance. Your voice matters!

## Faculty Assembly Governance Structure



Faculty Assembly members are expected to be prepared, engaged, and constructive; to represent their colleagues responsibly; to serve on committees; to follow governance procedures; and to contribute meaningfully to shared governance at CU Denver.

## RESOURCES

**Email:** [FA@ucdenver.edu](mailto:FA@ucdenver.edu)

*(this box is monitored only by the Chair and FA coordinator and all inquiries are confidential)*

CU Denver Faculty Assembly [website](#)

Faculty Assembly [Constitution](#)

Faculty Assembly [Bylaws](#)

Faculty Senate and Faculty Council [website](#)

American Association of University Professor (AAUP) resources on [shared governance](#)

*(Chat GPT was used for grammar, syntax, consistency, and conciseness.)*