



Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

To: Joanne Addison, Chair, CU Faculty Council
University of Colorado Faculty Council, Executive Committee
From: CU Denver Faculty Assembly
Re: Search for CU President
Date: 2018 September 19

Dear Joanne Addison and Members of the CU Faculty Council Executive Committee:

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of CU's shared governance initiatives.

Last spring, the CU community learned that President Bruce Benson announced his retirement from position as President of the University and that, starting in 2019, another individual will fill that role. At an ad-hoc Faculty Council Executive Committee meeting on August 14, 2018, Joanne Addison, Chair of the Faculty Council, requested that the chairs of the respective CU campus Faculty Assemblies solicit feedback from their membership about the following questions: *What are the leadership/professional attributes you believe our next president should possess? And, what system-level and campus-level issues should the incoming president be capable of addressing?*

I sent an e-mail to the CU Denver Faculty Assembly membership on August 27 requesting that they consider these questions for discussion at the September 04 CU Denver Faculty Assembly meeting, at which 29 representatives of the CU Denver community attended.

Through discussion, the Faculty Assembly wishes to convey the following response to the questions posed.

1. The CU Denver Faculty Assembly believes that the faculty of the university are the engine of the university and comprise key members of its community who perform the core work of the university mission. As such, the faculty are in an excellent position to participate in university governance. The members of the assembly would like for the incoming president to demonstrate **dedication to the principles of shared faculty governance and a respect for the roles attributed to university faculty in the decision-making and policy-setting process**, as is explicitly articulated in the Articles of the University.
2. As we all know, funding for higher education is a critical issue in Colorado that requires overcoming difficult political and social challenges. The CU Denver Faculty Assembly wishes to see a **president who possesses the ability to work with the state legislature and other relevant bodies to secure financial growth and security for the University.**

3. Policy 10P of the University describes diversity as “a natural and enriching hallmark of life. A climate of healthy diversity is one in which people value a rich panoply of diverse ideas, perspectives and backgrounds, individual and group differences, and communicate openly.”¹ The CU Denver Faculty Assembly affirms the importance of this statement and encourages the Regents to seek a candidate for the President’s office **who uncompromisingly supports diversity as a core value on our campus, and who enacts inclusive leadership practices.**

4. The CU Denver Faculty Assembly believes that improved fund-raising for our campus offers important potential for growth that is far from fully tapped. The student per capita figure for funding dollars at CU Denver is about one third of the figure at Boulder, for example.² The Faculty Assembly would like the new president to possess the desire and ability to grow these efforts. Increasing costs and strained funding have placed burden on students at CU Denver,³ where financial need is a key barrier to retention. We would like to encourage the Regents to select a candidate who **understands the mission and context of the CU Denver campus and who demonstrates an ability and willingness to work with the particular and specific needs of the campus.**

5. We would like to encourage the Regents to seek a presidential candidate who is **firmly committed to excellence in both scholarship and teaching.**

We are pleased to hear that the Faculty Council is representing the faculty and its interest in the search for a new University president, and we strongly believe that University faculty should have a powerful voice in the deliberations about this important position in university leadership.

Sincerely,



Peter Anthamatten, Chair, Representative of CU Denver Faculty Assembly

¹ <https://www.cu.edu/regents/policy-10p-diversity>

² Calculated from figures at <https://www.cu.edu/news/private-support-university-colorado-reaches-record-high-4404-million> and <https://www.cu.edu/cu-facts-and-figures>

³ <http://www.cpr.org/news/story/colorado-isn-t-funding-higher-ed-like-it-used-to-so-students-make-up-the-difference>