



CU Denver Faculty Assembly -- Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2024

Zoom and In-Person

Attendees: Sasha Breger Bush, Vivian Shyu, Dennis DeBay, Colleen Donnelly, Florian Pfender, Anthony Villano, Bailey Wallace, Wendy Bolyard, Amy Hasinoff, Jamie Hodgkins, Alan Vajda, Katherine Mohrman, Larry Erbert, Manish Shirgaokar, Matt Shea, Maryam Darbeheshti, Tom Beck, Sarah Fields, Erin Hackel, Ester de Jong, Kevin Hirth, Jeffrey Schrader, Rachel Stein, Rashmi Gangamma, Philip Joseph, Eric Baker, George Quansah, Gisella Bassani, David Bondelevitch, Traci Sitzmann, Peter Anthamatten, Diana White, Kristin Kilbourne, Alejandra Medina, Thorsten Spehn, Karen Sobel, Kelly See, Shuyang Peng, Dan Maxey, AVC Turan Kayaoglu, Provost Nakuma, Interim Chancellor Ann Schmiesing

Chair's Update (Sasha Breger Bush):

- Approve minutes (May 3, 2024)
- Motion was made to Approve, motion was seconded; Poll posted
 - Results for May 3, 2024, Minutes: approved by a majority
- Annual Report AY 23/24 (Read Ahead)
- Guide for faculty on [Scholarship and Safety](#): emphasized the importance of social media use and reaffirming a commitment to upholding faculty freedom.
- [SB 23-111](#): This bill passed last summer, which protects public sector workers from retaliation for discussing or expressing views on public employee representation and workplace issues.
- Enrollment data (Read Ahead): Tomorrow is Census day.
- Chancellor Search Updates: Reserved for last half hour of the meeting. Judi Diaz Bonacquisti is the Chair of the search committee. A faculty, staff, and student forum was held, with a remaining opportunity for engagement through survey.
- Dr. Bruce Neumann's Passing: Shared obituary and fond memories of his service as a long-standing faculty member of the university.
- Membership Vacancies: Vacancies on CFAC, the Viability Working Group and Pharma committees. Interested individuals should reach out. One member needed for PBC. A regular member seat is vacant on the ATWG due to Joanne Addison's sabbatical.

Secretary's Update (Dennis DeBay):

- Presentation of FA Award: Jeff Schrader announced as the winner for the 23/24 AY.
- Summer FCQ WG Update: Addressed data mining issues and qualitative comments. In the past, faculty have received letters to supervisors based on AI-generated keywords.
- Received Provost funds to investigate equity issues; the goal for the summer was to develop a plan for this AY.
- A report has been written outlining three main goals:
 - Collect information on promotion and merit from each school/college to analyze practices.
 - Form a subgroup to explore technological advancements that can support faculty evaluation processes.

- Secure additional funds to establish focus groups with faculty and students in the Spring to examine existing practices. The ultimate goal is to deliver a final report with recommendations to the administration.
- Over the summer, Dennis DeBay spoke with students (undergraduates to PhD), faculty, and administrators. No one could clearly articulate the benefits derived from FCQs that support their work. Updates on focus groups will be provided in the Spring.
- Members of the Summer WG: Dennis DeBay, Jennifer Taylor, Cristina Gillanders, Lucy Dwight, Maren Scull, Ashley Hoffman, Alyssa Gilkey Zawack.

Provost Update (Nakuma):

- Requested additional time in future meetings to discuss priorities and progress.
- Provost emphasized high priority on achieving financial sustainability. He discussed the goals for the upcoming year and provided a review of the past three years, focusing on collective progress. Below are goals for this AY:
 - Student Enrollment and Retention
 - Academic Transformation Initiatives
 - Budget Model Refresh: This will be a key priority, particularly in light of AI's influence on operations.
- Provost outlined the following overarching themes for this AY:
 - Student Experience and Success
 - Enhance services such as central lynx, advising, and psychological safety, support for affinity groups.
 - Faculty and Staff Development and Welfare
 - Development of leadership programs (including Women's Leadership Program) and a focus on shared governance and diversity.
 - Institutional Portrayal and Reputation
 - Focus on branding and public exposure, including partnerships with local schools and organizations.
- In addition, Provost spoke to the following goals:
 - Goal 1: Launch the Change Worker program and expand the prison education program.
 - Goal 2: Expand the University Honors Program and pursue new partnerships in entrepreneurship and data science.
 - Goal 3: Increase funding for graduate education and expand faculty research support.
 - Goal 4: Strengthen community outreach and enhance public reputation through a brand refresh and comprehensive funding campaign.
- Provost discussed professional development for faculty in an effort to elevate research capabilities. He also acknowledged the success of the Colorado Reengage program, which awarded 69 degrees this past year.

Closed Session

End Meeting