October 4, 2018

Dear Regents Ganahl and Griego:

Faculty Council asked each of CU’s Faculty Assemblies what faculty hope for in our next president. There was significant agreement across all four campuses as to the attributes we believe our next president needs to possess. We respectfully submit to you the following list of attributes we hope you will consider when selecting our next president:

1. As we all know, funding for higher education is a critical issue in Colorado that requires overcoming difficult political and social challenges. Faculty wish to see a president who possesses the ability to work with the state legislature, federal government, donors, CU Foundation, and other relevant bodies to secure the financial growth and security of the University.

2. The Faculty believes that teaching and research are at the heart of any University. We seek a president who understands the faculty and their commitments to core academic values, and in turn motivates the faculty to greater excellence. Therefore, we hope to see a president with a demonstrated commitment to teaching and research by way of previous experience in a public university system, if not through the expression of the president’s own teaching and research, then through work as a member of a University board, service to a state department of higher education, or other significant form of engagement.

3. We seek a president who fully supports the processes and outcomes of a robust system of shared governance. In doing so, the president should support the central role of faculty in the work of a public university and the value of collaboration with multiple stakeholders in setting policy and making decisions. Faculty affirm the principles of participation in Article 5 of the Regents that “it is a guiding principle of the shared governance recognized by the Board of Regents that the faculty and administration shall collaborate in major decisions affecting the academic welfare of the university.”

4. We hope to find a president who can lead faculty, staff, administrators, and regents toward a coherent, shared vision for the future of CU. At the same time, the president must recognize and respect the independence of the four campuses and their separate roles and missions, acknowledging that this diversity enables us to best serve the state of Colorado and a wide range of students.

5. Policy 10P of the Regents 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.” The Faculty affirms the importance of this statement. We seek a
president who has demonstrated support for diversity and inclusion as core values and who is committed to inclusive leadership practices.

6. The president is the public face of the university. Therefore, we seek a president who embodies personal and professional integrity, and an unwavering commitment to ethics in all aspects of university life.

Sincerely,

Joanne Addison, PhD  
Chair, Faculty Assembly  
Professor, Department of English