

Faculty Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

January 15th, 2026, 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference: <https://cusestem.zoom.us/j/97339631919>

MINUTES

Attending: Rhonda Glazier (Chair, UCCS), Gordon Stringer (UCCS), Glen Krutz (UCB), Rob MacLaren (Anschutz), Jin Zhang (UCD), Rebecca Braverman (Anschutz), Kay Weaver (UCB), Kelly McCusker (UCD), Kori Donaldson (SYS), Emily Parker (SYS), Rachel Johnson (Anschutz)

1. Opening and Announcements

- Reminder: tentatively plan for an in-person meeting on April 16th, likely the final meeting of the year.
- April meeting discussion: legislative budget update; committee leadership roles for next year.
- Location: CU System Office (1800 Grant Street, Denver).
 - Mileage, parking, and lunch would be covered.
- Chair introduced guests Kori Donaldson and Emily Parker from the CU System Budget and Finance team. The committee's focus for this meeting was an overview of the CU budget cycle and a detailed explanation of the state funding formula. Chad was unable to attend.

2. Approval of Minutes

- December meeting minutes were approved unanimously

3. Guest Presentation- CU Budget Cycle Overview

Presenter: *Kori Donaldson, Assistant VP for Budget, Planning, and Capital, CU System*

- Fall activities include enrollment census review, preliminary tuition and compensation planning, and cost estimate development.
- The Governor's budget recommendation is released in early November and used to develop multiple budget scenarios (A, B, and C) presented to the Board of Regents.
- Campuses also develop additional internal scenarios beyond those shared with the Board.
- The system is currently preparing the "Budget B" proposal for the Board's early February meeting.
- Ongoing work continues through the spring with legislative engagement and Joint Budget Committee discussions.



4. Guest Presentation- Statewide Funding Formula Overview

Presenter: *Emily Parker, Budget, Planning, and Policy Analyst, CU System*

Funding Formula Structure

- Three steps comprise the formula:
 - Step 1: Targets historically underserved populations (first-generation, underrepresented minority, Pell-eligible students). This step has not been used for the past three years.
 - Step 2: Core performance-based funding mechanism and primary driver of allocations.
 - Step 3: Intended for one-time special allocations; never used.

Certain institutions (CU Anschutz, CSU Veterinary School, local district colleges, and area technical colleges) do not participate in the formula and instead receive the statewide average increase.

Step 2 – Performance-Based Funding:

- Distributed using eight performance metrics, including:
 - Resident FTE enrollment
 - Credentials awarded
 - Retention rates
 - Graduation rates
 - Pell-eligible, underrepresented minority, and first-generation student enrollment
- Institutions are evaluated against their own past performance (not against each other).
- Percentages assigned to each metric have remained unchanged for the past five years.

Funding Levels and Trends:

- For FY 2025–26, total state funding to institutions is approximately \$1.3 billion, with \$22.2 million distributed through Step 2.
- The governor’s initial proposal is typically lower than the final appropriation secured through legislative advocacy.
- Mid-year cuts reduced last year’s new funding from \$31.7 million to \$22.2 million statewide.

Example Calculation:

- Funding uses rolling 3-year and 4-year enrollment averages to smooth year-to-year fluctuations.
- Adjustments account for institutional size (“role and mission” adjustment).
- Each metric distributes a portion of the total funding based on performance changes.

Current Legislative Environment and Advocacy



- The governor's November proposal placed approximately \$10 million into Step 1, which distributes equal amounts to institutions regardless of size.
- This approach disproportionately benefits smaller institutions; CU's government relations team is advocating for distribution through Step 2 instead.
- The legislative session has begun, and the Joint Budget Committee hearing recently included testimony from President Saliman, Regent Renison, faculty, staff, and student leaders.
- A unified letter from institutions will request funding to cover inflation, salary increases, and insurance costs.
- The first preview of the FY 2026–27 budget will be presented at the February Board of Regents meeting.
Ms. Parker emphasized that the coming year will be fiscally challenging due to tight state revenues, mandatory Medicaid and K–12 increases, and constraints related to TABOR.
- Ms. Parker agreed to share the PowerPoint presentation with Chair Glazier for distribution to committee members.
- Budget and finance staff offered to return for a deeper follow-up presentation if requested.

5. Adjournment

Next meeting is scheduled: Thursday, February 19th, 2026 @ 11 AM