



Faculty Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

October 16th, 2025, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference: <https://cusystem.zoom.us/j/99861681314>

MINUTES

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

1. Opening and Announcements

- Future meetings (November and December) will be shortened to 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. due to overlapping Faculty Council meetings and holidays.
- Recruitment: The committee continues to seek additional representatives from UCCS and Boulder to ensure full campus representation. Members were encouraged to reach out to potential faculty colleagues.
- In-person meeting proposal: Spring 2025 at CU System offices (1800 Grant Street, Denver).
 - Mileage, parking, and lunch would be covered.
 - Members expressed interest but noted that March may conflict with spring breaks across campuses.
 - The committee will explore March or April as possible dates depending on participation.

2. Approval of Minutes

- The previous meeting's minutes were approved unanimously

3. Guest Presentation – CU System Enrollment Overview

Presenter: *Kori Donaldson, Associate Vice President for Budget & Finance, CU System*

Topic: *Fall 2024 Enrollment Trends and Budget Implications*

Summary:

- Presentation reflected final census data (as of September 15), providing a full and accurate picture for the Board of Regents.
- Overall, CU campuses experienced steady or modest enrollment growth, with positive budget impacts for most campuses.
- Highlights by Campus:
 - CU Boulder:



- 1% increase in enrollment year-over-year; 2.7% above June budget projections.
- Strong retention rates remain the main driver of growth.
- Despite a \$3.8M shortfall from budget expectations, this represented only 0.3% of Boulder's overall E&G budget—easily absorbable.
- UCCS:
 - Slight decline in first-year students but came in 0.6% above June budget.
 - Graduate enrollment and Colorado-resident enrollment showed positive gains.
 - Total impact: ~\$1.1M below budget (≈0.6% of E&G budget).
- CU Denver:
 - Significant improvement in first year (5.6%) and transfer students.
 - Overall enrollment went up 1.3% over June budget, producing an additional \$3.3M in revenue.
 - Stable trend over the past three years.
- CU Anschutz:
 - Small undergraduate population, making percentage shifts appear larger.
 - Up slightly over last fall but 0.3% below budget (~\$1.5M decrease).
 - Growth noted in Pharmacy and selected programs; international student numbers declined.

Key Budget Takeaways:

- Enrollment changes affect budgets differently by campus, depending on the proportion of tuition-funded revenue.
- Denver and UCCS are most sensitive to enrollment fluctuations; Boulder and Anschutz rely less heavily on tuition-based income.
- State budget reductions are expected to have minimal short-term impact (≈0.1–0.2% of overall E&G budgets), though campuses will adjust hiring and travel policies as needed.
- CU Denver met its revenue threshold for compensation adjustments; UCCS met one of two thresholds (funding retention and equity adjustments).

State and Legislative Outlook:

- The Governor's budget is due November 1, and CU anticipates updates following the October 29 Finance Committee meeting.
- Competing state funding priorities (K–12, Medicaid) will continue to pressure higher-ed funding.
- CU System continues to lobby for base increases tied to inflation, benefits, and classified staff costs.
- Legislative budget discussions will begin in December when the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) convenes.

Comparative Data:



- Kori Donadlson demonstrated statewide enrollment trends using public Tableau dashboards.
 - Most Colorado public institutions showed similar modest growth or stability.
 - Example: Western Colorado University down 8.1%, UNC up 2.2%, Metro and Mines modestly up 1–3%.
 - CU’s performance aligns with the overall statewide trend steadily, not anomalous.

Spring Enrollment Projections:

- Each campus monitors spring enrollment closely for budget forecasting.
- Budgets are modeled using historical retention data and predictive analytics, though methods differ by campus.
- No major concerns identified for Spring 2025 at this time.

4. Other Business

- Continued emphasis on cross-campus communication and representation.
- Members encouraged to share data summaries and clarify enrollment context on their campuses.
- Chair reiterated the importance of faculty understanding CU’s financial framework, especially as budgets tighten statewide.

5. Adjournment

Next meeting is scheduled: Thursday, November 20th, 2025, from 11am-Noon