

Faculty Budget & Finance Committee Meeting

March 19th, 2026, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

MINUTES

Attending: Rhonda Glazier (Chair, UCCS), Rob MacLaren (Anschutz), Jin Zhang (UCD), Rachel Johnson (Anschutz), Kelly McCusker (UCD), Gordon Stringer (UCCS), Chad Marturano (SYS)

1. Opening and Announcements

- Reminder: 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.

2. Approval of Minutes

- February meeting minutes were postponed due to lack of quorum

3. Campus Budget Updates

UCCS

- Budget planning occurring across three leadership groups (Executive, SLT, ULT including faculty and student reps).
- Significant cost-cutting measures:
 - Vacant positions eliminated (e.g., library lost four lines).
 - Hiring freeze/chill with limited exceptions.
 - Anticipated layoffs (details expected early May).
- Early discussions of program discontinuation, though none finalized.
- Upcoming HLC accreditation review noted as an additional pressure.

CU Denver

- Ongoing academic program viability study (no immediate program cuts expected).



- Faculty Budget Committee:
 - Reviews new programs for financial feasibility.
 - Interest in post-implementation review (3–5 years later).
- Implementation of a new budget model (parallel year):
 - Better reflects enrollment changes vs. prior incremental model.
 - Ongoing debate about allocation formulas (e.g., credit hours split).
- New Chancellor’s initiative pool (~\$1.7M) planned; process unclear.

4. Guest Presentation- State Budget Update

Presenter: *Chad Marturano, CU System CFO*

A. State Budget Context

- Colorado is at the peak of budget season, awaiting March revenue forecast to guide decisions.
- Legislature has delayed decisions on major items (higher ed, K-12, Medicaid, compensation).
- Final decisions expected within weeks, followed by legislative approval and gubernatorial action.

B. Budget Constraints & Outlook

- State faces a structural budget shortfall:
 - Rising long-term expenses from prior policy decisions.
 - Reduced tax revenue due to policy changes.
- Budget decisions described as choosing the “least bad option” among competing needs.
- Policymakers are cutting even high-priority, high-impact programs (e.g., disability services).

C. Higher Education Funding

- Governor proposal:
 - Small increase in state funding
 - Tuition caps (~2.6% resident; ~3% non-resident)



- JBC staff recommendation:
 - Flat funding (restore prior cuts only)
 - ~3% tuition increases
- Concern: These levels do not cover rising compensation and operating costs.

D. CU Budget Process

- State decisions determine:
 - Tuition caps, compensation, and funding levels
- CU timeline:
 - April: Board votes on tuition, fees, compensation
 - June: Final campus budgets approved

E. Key Risks & Pressures

- Potential need to address \$400M shortfall through cuts or reserves.
- Reluctance to use reserves due to economic uncertainty.
- Risk areas:
 - UPL funding / federal policy changes (Anschutz)
 - Provider rates and Medicaid-related funding

F. Programs at Risk

- Smaller targeted investments likely to be reduced or eliminated:
 - Cybersecurity funding (UCCS)
 - Rural health programs
 - Marijuana Tax Cash Fund allocations
 - Teacher preparation programs (e.g., T-REP)
- Emphasis: No “sacred cows”; all areas subject to cuts.

G. Legislative & Policy Considerations

- Ongoing CU-supported legislation:
 - Concurrent enrollment bill (expand access by embedding instructors in districts).



- Higher ed efficiency bill (reduce administrative barriers, speed projects).

H. Budget Process & Finalization

- Budget must pass legislature, then go to governor:
 - Governor has line-item veto authority.
- Additional lobbying may occur late in process to protect specific items.

I. Compensation Outlook

- Raises for classified staff:
 - Historically not reduced but may be flat (no increase) in difficult years.

5. Adjournment

Next meeting is scheduled: Thursday, April 16th @ 11 AM