



Faculty Council Communications Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 15th, 2026
9 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Zoom Video Conference
MINUTES

Attending: Elizabeth Novosel (Co-Chair, UCB), Hayley Blackburn (UCCS), Michael Hanson (UCD), Jay Dedrick (SYS)

Call to order – Introductions

- Our SharePoint Folder: [Faculty Council - Communications Documents - FC Communications Committee \(FC3\) - All Documents](#)

Committee Vacancies:

- 2 vacancies: CU Anschutz
- 1 vacancy, CU Denver

1. Opening and Attendance

- Tentative in-person meeting scheduled for April 16th meeting

2. Faculty Council Blog and Communication Updates

FC Administrator reported that the Faculty Council blog post has been published on the FC website. She will meet with Chris Sparks to learn how to manage blog postings and subscription features, including how faculty can subscribe for automated updates.

3. Transition from Newsletter to Blog Format

Chair Novosel reviewed the committee's shift from a once-per-semester newsletter to an ongoing blog with a semester-end summary. The goals include more timely, flexible, and news-driven communication, while still providing an end-of-semester overview via email.

Members discussed challenges in determining what Faculty Council content should be communicated externally, given existing dissemination channels through campus faculty assemblies and committee chairs.

4. Guest Presentation and Discussion: Jay Dedrick, CU Connections, CU System

Jay Dedrick provided an overview of CU Connections:

- CU Connections is the systemwide faculty and staff news publication housed in the President's Office.
- The site is being migrated from Drupal 7 to a new platform (Drupal 11).
- Content focuses on systemwide relevance, cross-campus collaboration, faculty success stories, shared governance, and major initiatives.

- CU Connections covers Faculty Council meetings and shared governance regularly and values highlighting faculty achievements and governance activities. Mr. Dedrick emphasized that CU Connections is a resource for the committee and offered ongoing consultation on communication strategy and content ideas.

5. Content Scope, Sensitivities, and Editorial Boundaries

Mr. Dedrick explained:

- CU Connections operates within administrative sensitivities and cannot always publish content critical of leadership or the Board of Regents.
- Past “Faculty Voices” opinion pieces demonstrated the delicate balance between academic freedom and institutional communication limits.
- Some content (e.g., litigation, highly sensitive governance disputes) is unlikely to appear in CU Connections but may be appropriate for Faculty Council channels.

Committee members discussed the importance of transparency, careful editorial judgment, and collaboration when addressing sensitive topics.

6. Coordination Between Committee Blog and CU Connections

The group discussed opportunities for alignment rather than duplication between Faculty Council communications and CU Connections:

- Possible revival of “Faculty Council Committee Corner” or similar features highlighting committee work and encouraging faculty involvement.
- Sharing selected blog content or coordinating partner pieces across platforms.
- Emphasis on content of systemwide interest rather than duplicating campus-level reporting.

7. Proposed Communication Pillars for the Committee Blog

Hayley Blackburn summarized four emerging content pillars for the committee’s blog:

1. Chair Spotlight / Leadership Updates – regular content from the Faculty Council Chair.
2. Faculty Voices – guest faculty contributions and opinion pieces.
3. Faculty Council Highlights / Breaking News – major topics discussed at meetings prior to official minutes.
4. Special Interest Topics – policy issues, shared resources, and items of broad faculty relevance.

The committee agreed these pillars align well with CU Connections while maintaining a distinct faculty-focused audience.

8. Library Resource Sharing Initiative

Chair described a developing systemwide library collaboration on shared resources and licensing. The group discussed potential communication opportunities to explain cross-campus resource sharing to faculty and staff.

Mr. Dedrick indicated this topic would be well-suited for coverage in CU Connections, especially if new agreements or processes emerge.

9. Next Steps and Follow-Up

- The committee will continue refining blog content strategy using the four content pillars.

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- Members will explore coordination opportunities with CU Connections, including possible committee spotlights and shared stories.

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting: February 19th, 2026 @ 9 am