

To: Russell Moore, Provost
Kelly Fox, Chief Financial Officer

From: On Behalf of the Academic Futures Committee:
Jeff Cox, AF Convener
Emily CoBabe-Ammann, AF Chief Facilitator

Subject: Final Academic Futures Report

Date: 1 October 2018

With this letter we submit, on behalf of the Academic Futures Committee, the final version of the AF Report: “The Future of CU Boulder as a Public University: Embracing the Core Mission of Furthering the Public Good.” This report is accompanied by an outline of the campus’ response to this report, archived at the AF website (<https://www.colorado.edu/academicfutures/>).

Over the past year, the AF process has engaged the entire campus in a conversation about our core missions of teaching and learning, discovery and creation. Open communication and conversation marked every phase of our effort, as we engaged every mode of communication we could access—CU Boulder Today, our corps of listeners, open meetings and more. Something on the order of 150 meetings were held—including town halls open to everyone, visits with all departments and other units that requested an AF conversation, and a variety of facilitated conversations (for example, four themed conversations on “Highlighting the Role of Arts and Humanities at CU Boulder” or two on internationalization). Thousands of comments were gathered from those meetings or from submissions directly to the website. In addition, a call for position papers from the community yielded 162 responses.

This input was summarized in twenty campus themes, posted on the website, that provided a map to this wealth of responses. Those summaries were used by the committee to make sure it covered all community input: each white paper was read by at least two committee members; each conversation was reviewed by at least two committee members. As the committee organized itself into working groups, we began reporting back to the campus, beginning last March, to make sure we had heard the community correctly. That dialogue continued throughout the Spring semester.

The committee submitted its draft report on September 1. Over the past month, the committee, through Town Halls, short Response Papers and comments posted on the Academic Futures website, sought to collect campus reactions, opinions and suggestions for the Academic Futures process. As indicated above, these responses are being sent to you as part of the work of the AF process.

The AF Committee has been inspired by the ideas, the energy, and the commitment of our campus community. We are pleased to present to you our understanding of the academic futures we want to create together at CU Boulder. The committee looks forward to the next definition and implementation phase of Academic Futures, knowing that it will retain the open and engaged process that has marked all of our efforts.