UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION ACCREDITATION 2020
ASSURANCE REVIEW

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Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct

The institution acts with integrity; its conduct is ethical and responsible.

2.A. The institution operates with integrity in its financial, academic, personnel and auxiliary functions; it establishes and follows policies and processes for fair and ethical behavior on the part of its governing board, administration, faculty and staff.

General policies and practices

As part of the University of Colorado System, CU Boulder complies in its policy and practice with the Colorado State Constitution, Colorado state law and the laws and policies established by the University of Colorado Board of Regents. CU Boulder has also adopted additional policies, procedures and practices regarding fair and ethical conduct.

Article 1, Part D of the Laws of the Board of Regents requires that all members of the University of Colorado community be “responsible for understanding and upholding the highest standards of legal and ethical conduct,” and requires faculty members to act on and off the campus with integrity and in accordance with the highest standards of their profession. Article 7, Part B imposes a similar obligation on students to behave ethically and with integrity. Principles of ethical behavior are further elaborated in Regent Policy 1, Section 1.B., “Guiding Principles,” requires the university to “promote and uphold the principles of ethics, integrity, transparency, and accountability.” Section 1.C., “Principles of Ethical Behavior,” includes the general principle that University of Colorado employees are expected to conduct themselves ethically. Section 1.C. addresses specific components of ethical conduct expected in an academic institution, including, among others: (1) research and academic integrity, (2) respect for others and nondiscrimination, and (3) avoidance of conflicts of interest. The principles in each of these areas are implemented through University of Colorado Administrative Policy Statement (APS) 2027, “Code of Conduct” and through other policy statements, discussed below, describing behavioral expectations, processes for obtaining assurances that the expectations are being met and procedures for remediating failures.

At CU Boulder, general ethical principles and standards of conduct are expressed for all levels of administration, faculty, staff and students. Ethical principles, duties and expected conduct for faculty and department chairs are laid out in the CU Boulder policy on “Professional Rights and Duties of Faculty Members and Roles and Professional Duties of Department Chairs.” The Colorado Creed is a social responsibility code for all members of the university community (see 1.A.1.). The Creed, born out of a
student-led response to third-party university rankings, includes the pledge to “act with honor, integrity and accountability in my interactions with students, faculty, staff and neighbors.”

In 2017, following a three-year effort led by the chancellor to establish a campus culture of and administrative commitment to ethical decision-making, CU Boulder adopted a comprehensive Ethics and Compliance Plan that established an administrative and advisory framework for the maintenance, improvement and communication of campus policies, procedures and actions regarding ethics and integrity. The associate vice chancellor for integrity, safety and compliance (AVC) has charge of the Ethics and Compliance Plan and organizes three leadership groups that work in its support. (1) The Executive Committee for Ethics and Compliance, consisting of the chancellor, provost, and executive vice chancellor and chief operating officer (EVC-COO) along with the AVC and the CU Boulder managing associate university counsel, creates a plan and action items that are then implemented by the AVC. (2) The Compliance Working Group advises the chancellor by identifying and prioritizing resource needs and educational/training needs, and coordinates the compliance communication plan. (3) The Chancellor’s Values and Ethics Advisory Committee, comprising faculty, staff and undergraduate and graduate student representatives, meets regularly to discuss issues pertaining to ethics and integrity at CU Boulder, and advises the chancellor on its opinions and findings. In addition, the AVC hosts a monthly education series to share and discuss issues relating to ethics and compliance.

Paralleling the CU system ethics hotline, CU Boulder provides the “Report It” website to receive reports of possible bias-motivated incidents, sexual misconduct, gender/sexual harassment, protected-class discrimination and crimes. The “Report It” website also provides access to additional reporting options and resources, including those regarding confidential assistance, reports to law enforcement and Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations.

Finances

Financial responsibility at the University of Colorado ultimately resides in the Board of Regents, whose structure and procedures are described in 2.C. The Regents Finance Committee makes recommendations to the entire board concerning financial decisions. Like the meetings of the entire board, Finance Committee meetings are open to the public, and agendas and minutes are published online. University investment and fiscal policy, processes and procedures are governed by the Colorado State Constitution and Colorado statute (CRS 11-10.5-111) and by the Laws of the Regents (Article 13 and Article 15), and are implemented through administrative policy statements having to do with accounting procedures, procurement and travel, internal controls, audits, donations and fundraising, and fiscal roles and responsibilities.

The University of Colorado System has an independent, external firm conduct an annual financial audit of all four University of Colorado campuses as well as central administration. The resulting annual report is submitted to the Colorado General Assembly via the Legislative Audit Committee. Annual reports are published both in PDF format and in a web format that explains university assets, liabilities, revenues/expenses and net position to the public in an accessible, easy-to-understand form. In addition, the University of Colorado Department of Internal Audit conducts internal operational and functional audits of all four campuses and central administration throughout the year. Another mechanism ensuring appropriate and ethical use of institutional resources is APS 4058, “Budget and Net Position Internal Reporting,” which requires an annual report from each University of Colorado campus detailing unrestricted net assets/reserves and which is implemented at CU Boulder through the Unrestricted Net
Position policy. The University of Colorado's most recent bond rating remained AA+ by Fitch and was upgraded to Aa1 by Moody’s.

At CU Boulder, fiscal integrity and reporting are centralized in the Campus Controller’s Office, which was reorganized in 2018 in consultation with an advisory group of 13 campus representatives. Changes included (1) adding a new compliance subunit to serve as an internal control structure specifically for the CU Boulder campus, and (2) moving Sponsored Program Accounting under the controller’s purview. These changes were designed to ensure fiscal integrity and to improve reporting, responsiveness and accuracy in regard to external funding agencies.

Article 29 of the Colorado Constitution imposes strict ethical principles, including restrictions on receipt of gifts by state employees, and establishes standards of conduct for employees and governing board members of public institutions of higher education focused on the avoidance of conflicts of interest between their personal financial interests and their performance of governmental responsibilities. These standards are enforced by the Independent Ethics Commission (C.R.S. 24-18-101 et seq.). CU Boulder officers must disclose outside financial interests and activities as required by Regent Policy 3.B., APS 4013, "Officer Disclosure of Interests," and APS 5012, "Conflicts of Interest and Commitment in Research and Teaching." APS 5012 also governs CU Boulder’s Disclosure of External Professional Activities, which must be submitted annually by all faculty members, research personnel, students, volunteers and consultants who are responsible for the design, conduct or reporting of research. Regent Policy 3.B. requires avoidance and appropriate disclosure of conflicts of interest by university staff, and Regent Policy 3.C. details staff responsibilities regarding outside consulting and service on external boards.

Regarding fiscal transparency, CU Boulder administration makes frequent presentations on budgetary forecasts and plans to the Board of Regents; these are recorded in the regents’ meeting minutes, which are publicly available. As described in 5.C.3., the Academic Affairs Budget Advisory Committee, comprising faculty and staff representatives, advises the provost on budgetary matters. The Boulder Faculty Assembly’s Budget and Planning Committee has a similar advisory role to the chancellor, provost and EVC-COO. The EVC-COO holds multiple sessions of a “Coffee and the Campus Budget” event every semester, open to CU Boulder faculty, staff and students.

Academics

Like all policies at CU Boulder, policies regarding ethics and integrity in academics are grounded in regent law and policy as described above. Academic policies are included on the campus policy website. CU Boulder’s Academic Integrity Policy requires academic integrity of all faculty and students; the honor code and research misconduct policy and procedures are discussed below in 2.E. Campus procedures regarding grievances by or against a faculty member regarding unprofessional conduct in research, creative work, teaching and academic citizenship are also governed by the CU Boulder policy on “Professional Rights and Duties of Faculty Members and Roles and Professional Duties of Department Chairs.” Student academic grievances are handled first at the level of the academic unit and then at the level of the dean of the school or college, as detailed in “Student Appeals, Complaints, and Grievances: A Brief Guide.” The provost has tasked the senior vice provost for academic planning and assessment with reviewing college and school policies dealing with student academic grievances, to ensure consistency across campus and a clear appeals procedure. This review is part of a comprehensive review of academic policies that began in fall 2018 and will take several years to complete. For example, in AY 2018–19 the campus revised its final examination policy and established a new grade replacement.
policy. Each fall and spring semester, the registrar notifies all students about their student privacy rights as guaranteed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Personnel

As discussed in 5.A.4., the practice of ethics and integrity in personnel matters begins with searching for and hiring faculty and staff, and continues with practices of employment for all instructional, research, staff and student employees. Faculty hiring is overseen by the Office of Faculty Affairs, which manages offer letters for faculty positions and faculty-leadership positions (chairs, associate deans, etc.) in tandem with the Department of Human Resources (HR), which manages the search process. Hiring for research faculty positions is similarly jointly managed by HR and the Research and Innovation Office (RIO). Faculty Affairs/RIO and HR work with colleges, schools and individual units to ensure that search procedures are followed fairly for all applicants; search committees receive individual training, including a review of the Faculty Search Process Manual. Hiring for staff and postdoctoral fellowship holders and other nonfaculty research personnel is managed directly by HR. Hiring of faculty and university staff is governed by regent Law and University of Colorado policy (see APS 5002 and APS 5005 for faculty, and APS 5056 for university staff). Hiring of classified staff is governed by state law and policy.

In accordance with Regent Policy 10J, “Nepotism and University Employment,” and APS 5003, “Nepotism in Employment,” CU Boulder follows procedures ensuring that supervisors recuse themselves from any personnel actions involving supervision of an immediate family member. APS 5015, “Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships,” defines University of Colorado procedures for removing a direct evaluative relationship between members of the university community involved in an amorous relationship (faculty/student, faculty/faculty, or faculty/staff).

As discussed in 1.C., diversity and inclusion are CU Boulder priorities and key to the fair treatment of all faculty, staff and students. The Faculty Search Process Manual, mentioned above, includes guidelines for gathering a diverse pool of qualified applicants and avoiding implicit bias in hiring; in addition, HR has developed an online course for faculty search committee members that focuses on best practices to ensure an inclusive search process and mitigate unconscious bias. A similar process manual and online course for hiring staff and research personnel should now be a campus goal, and HR is making plans in this direction. HR provides guidance on workplace accommodations and campus resources for, among others, persons with disabilities, nursing mothers and employees transitioning gender.

CU Boulder is ethically obligated to ensure the safety of the campus community as well as visitors to campus. The CU Boulder Department of Environmental Health and Safety works with the campus community and local, state and federal agencies to ensure that all environmental health and safety hazards for the campus and the surrounding Boulder community are appropriately addressed. The Division of Emergency Management coordinates and integrates activities to prepare for, mitigate against, and respond to threatened or actual natural and human-made disasters. Through training and consultation with campus personnel and local officials in accordance with the Clery Act, the CU Boulder Police Department (CUPD) makes public its Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, notifies the campus community about crimes included in the Act and maintains a log of all crimes, among other actions. CUPD offers classes on workplace violence, active harmer training and “Run. Hide. Fight.” training, along with other resources for crime prevention. The Department of Environmental Health and Safety maintains a comprehensive site for training and resources having to do with health and safety in laboratories, work areas and classrooms, including the BioRAFT lab management and safety compliance application in which researchers interact with information specific to their own laboratories.
The **Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC)** is responsible for training, education and enforcement for CU Boulder’s policies on **discrimination and harassment; sexual misconduct, intimate partner abuse, and stalking; and conflict of interest in amorous relationships.** The executive director of OIEC serves as the campus Title IX coordinator. OIEC publishes annual statistical reports of its investigations into incidents of discrimination and harassment and of sexual misconduct. In 2018, OIEC was reorganized on the recommendation of the **Campus Integration Committee** and was placed in the structure that reports to the EVC-COO; previously, OIEC reported directly to the chancellor. One goal of integrating OIEC fully into the same organizational structure as HR (among other offices) is to increase OIEC’s visibility and its commitment to proactive training and education. In AY 2017–18, the **Sexual Misconduct Policy**, which applies to all CU campuses, underwent a systemwide review process, during which the Campus Integration Committee gathered ideas from CU Boulder students, faculty and staff. The changes to the Sexual Misconduct Policy have helped align processes across all campuses and clarified areas regarding due process, adjudication jurisdiction and mandatory reporting. New students are required to complete a **Community Equity course** on Title IX and relevant campus policy and procedures before they can register for classes.

As mentioned above, the EVC-COO in 2018 created a new **Office of Integrity, Safety and Compliance** that separated these functions from the Office of Infrastructure and Sustainability, thus highlighting their importance to the campus. The office supports and facilitates a coordinated approach to ethics, integrity and safety in the conduct of campus operations, including the safety and security of information.

**2.B. The institution presents itself clearly and completely to its students and to the public with regard to its programs, requirements, faculty and staff, costs to students, control, and accreditation relationships.**

The CU Boulder Office of Data Analytics (ODA) maintains a “**Your Right to Know**” website for current and prospective students that provides a transparent view of the university, including costs to students, graduation and retention rates, financial aid, placement of graduates, transfer credit policies, campus safety and much more. Online access to detailed campus-level institutional data, including survey results, course evaluation results and student data, is provided by ODA. ODA makes publicly accessible the campus’s **Common Data Set** provided to the publishers of college guides and **Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) submissions** provided to the U.S. Department of Education. ODA also conveys information on **campus accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission and specialized accreditation for individual programs.**

The **CU Boulder catalog** includes all course offerings and lists all faculty members and their credentials according to college, school and program. Each department and program also maintains a website showing faculty, courses, events and the like. The offices of the Registrar, Admissions, and Strategic Relations and Communications have recently worked together to integrate and make consistent all communications about programs and degree requirements.

**2.C. The governing board of the institution is sufficiently autonomous to make decisions in the best interest of the institution and to assure its integrity.**

1. The governing board’s deliberations reflect priorities to preserve and enhance the institution.
2. The governing board reviews and considers the reasonable and relevant interests of the institution’s internal and external constituencies during its decision-making deliberations.

3. The governing board preserves its independence from undue influence on the part of donors, elected officials, ownership interests or other external parties when such influence would not be in the best interest of the institution.

4. The governing board delegates day-to-day management of the institution to the administration and expects the faculty to oversee academic matters.

2.C.1. and 2.C.2. Article IX of the Colorado Constitution establishes the Board of Regents as the governing board of the University of Colorado. The Board of Regents is the only governing board of state institutions of higher education in Colorado that is constitutionally created or elected by the voters. The directly elected nature of the Board of Regents provides it with a degree of autonomy and independence rare among institutions of higher education. The Board of Regents is not subject to executive branch or legislative branch confirmation and is thus not part of the state executive or legislative branches.

Colorado’s constitution further provides the regents with the authority to govern the University of Colorado campuses and with “the general supervision . . . and the exclusive control and direction of all funds and of appropriations to [those campuses], unless otherwise provided by law” (Colo. Const. Article VIII). In their exercise of this authority, the regents are public officials and are subject to statutes that prohibit unauthorized uses of governmental power and prohibit an elected official from knowingly and maliciously refraining from performing a duty imposed upon them by law (C.R.S. 18-8-404(1)(a)). Colorado law also prohibits regents from performing any official act that gives direct economic benefit to an entity in which the regent has a direct or substantial financial interest (C.R.S. 24-18-108.5(2)). Regents may not disclose confidential information to advance a private interest, accept substantial gifts that would influence a reasonable person in discharging a public duty, or accept loans or compensation for services that are not commensurate with normal market standards.

To ensure transparency and accountability, the University of Colorado and the Board of Regents are subject to the Colorado Open Records Act, which states that “all public records shall be open for inspection by any person at reasonable times” (C.R.S. 24-72-203(1)(a)) and broadly defines “public records” as including “all writings made, maintained or kept by the state, [or] any agency [or] institution” of the state. The Act specifically defines “the correspondence of elected officials” as a public record, with limited exceptions (C.R.S. 24-72-202(6)(a)(I) and (II)). The Board of Regents is also subject to the open meetings provision of the Colorado Sunshine Act, which states that “the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret” (C.R.S. 24-6-401).

2.C.3. Regent Policy 2A states that “a regent is expected to serve the public trust and to exercise his or her powers and duties in the interest of the public, the University, and the Board.” This policy is designed to ensure that its members exercise “independent judgment in the discharge of Board responsibilities.” A regent who believes that they have a conflict of interest “shall disclose the conflict to the Board and shall refrain from participating in the matter to which the conflict relates.” A regent may not “use confidential information acquired in the performance of regents’ responsibilities to further the regent’s own financial interests or personal interests, or the financial interests or personal interests of the members of the regent’s family or associates.” Notably, this policy not only applies to conflicts of interests that are clear and undeniable, but also requires a regent to “avoid the appearance of impropriety” resulting from conduct that “might lead members of the public to conclude that the regent
is using his or her official position to further the financial or personal interests of the regent or the members of the regent’s family, or . . . associates.” Finally, this policy prohibits the University of Colorado from a business relationship with any entity in which a regent serves in an executive or policymaking position. While the board may waive this requirement for a particular business relationship that is advantageous to the university, the waiver requires an affirmative vote of six regents.

2.C.4. Although the Board of Regents is the ultimate source of authority in the University of Colorado System, it has delegated the day-to-day operations to the university’s administration, primarily to the president of the University of Colorado System and the chancellors of its campuses. Article 3 of the Laws of the Regents vests several duties in the president as principal executive officer. The president (1) is responsible for CU’s administration and its compliance with applicable Regent Laws and policies and state and federal constitutions, laws and regulations; (2) serves as CU’s chief academic officer; (3) provides academic leadership for the university in meeting the needs of the state; (4) serves as CU’s chief spokesperson and as interpreter of university policy and (5) represents and interprets the roles, goals and needs of the university throughout the state. Article 3 states that the chancellor of each campus is “responsible to the president for the conduct of the affairs of their respective campus in accordance with the policies of the Board of Regents.”

The Board of Regents has adopted a model of shared governance with the faculty of the University of Colorado that recognizes the faculty’s particular expertise in academic matters. Article 5 of the Laws of the Regents states, “It is a guiding principle of the shared governance recognized by the Board of Regents that the faculty and the administration shall collaborate in major decisions affecting the academic welfare of the university. The nature of that collaboration, shared as appropriate with students and staff, varies according to the nature of the decisions in question.” At Board of Regents meetings, representative leaders from each faculty, staff and student governance group update the board on the governance groups’ activities and the issues the groups are working on.

Under these principles of shared governance specified in Article 5, “The faculty takes the lead in decisions concerning selection of faculty, educational policy related to teaching, curriculum, research, academic ethics, and other academic matters.” Article 5 further specifies that:

- The faculty have the principal role for (1) originating academic policy and standards, including initial authorization and direction of all courses, curricula and degrees offered; admissions criteria; regulation of student academic conduct and activities; and determination of candidates for degrees; (2) originating scholastic policy, including scholastic standards for admission, grading (consistent with the University of Colorado Uniform Grading System), continuation, graduation and honors; and (3) the selection and evaluation of faculty, subject to the concurrence of the administration and the ultimate authority of the Board of Regents or its designee(s).
- The deans of the colleges and schools have responsibility for enforcement of admissions standards and requirements.
- The faculty collaborate with the campus and system administrations in developing recommendations to the president for submission to the Board of Regents regarding (1) policies and procedures for faculty appointment, reappointment, promotion, tenure and post-tenure review, and establishing policies and procedures for the appeal of decisions in these areas; (2) selection and evaluation of department chairs and academic administrators; (3) establishing and reviewing budget policies and plans for resource allocation, including review for new academic
degree program proposals, academic program review and program discontinuance; and (4) the making of other policy concerning the general academic welfare of the university.

- The administration has the principal role in the preparation of budgets, with early collaboration with the appropriate faculty governance unit(s) and subject to the ultimate authority of the Board of Regents or its designee(s).

**2.D. The institution is committed to freedom of expression and the pursuit of truth in teaching and learning.**

*Article 1.E. of the Laws of the Regents* declares that “the University of Colorado is committed to the principle of freedom of expression embodied in the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article II, Section 10 of Colorado’s State Constitution.” *Article 5.D.* guarantees to university faculty academic freedom, defined as “the freedom to inquire, discover, publish and teach truth as the faculty member sees it, subject to no control or authority save the control and authority of the rational methods by which truth is established.” *Article 7.C.* similarly guarantees academic freedom to students and was revised in 2018 to require each campus to have policies and procedures to investigate student claims of violations of academic freedom and to provide remediation when called for. These three articles of the Laws of the Regents were revised effective September 2018 to make clear the distinction between academic freedom, which applies to the university context, and the right to free expression, which applies to members of the university community in their roles as citizens.

As the University of Colorado’s flagship and as a public university, CU Boulder is frequently asked to host events with guests holding diverse views, and the university strives to provide for an open discussion of current topics and issues. CU Boulder’s goal is to keep such events, including public protests against those events, safe and respectful for all participants. Speakers and events in the last few years include, for example, President Barack Obama, Ann Coulter, the Dalai Lama, Milo Yiannapoulos, one of the 2016 Republican presidential candidate debates, and a rally by Bernie Sanders during the 2016 presidential campaign. To clarify the rights and responsibilities of the campus community in regard to free expression, CU Boulder has developed a website gathering together the principles, history, campus resources and campus policies having to do with the free expression of opinion. One recent innovation facilitating such expression is the Center for Student Involvement, a collaboration between student organizations, the CU Student Government and the Office of Student Affairs designed to coordinate student programming of events. Another is the establishment of the Significant Events Team, which coordinates CU Boulder efforts to accommodate large, impactful events on campus while minimizing disruption to campus operations and maximizing community safety.

**2.E. The institution’s policies and procedures call for responsible acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge by its faculty, students and staff.**

1. The institution has and enforces policies on academic honesty and integrity.
2. Students are offered guidance in the ethical use of information resources.
3. The institution provides effective oversight and support services to ensure the integrity of research and scholarly practice conducted by its faculty, staff and students.
2.E.1. **Research** at CU Boulder encompasses thousands of scholarly, scientific and creative endeavors at any given time by the university’s faculty, staff and students. The university’s research policies are posted online and easily accessible by the research community, which includes not only faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, but also undergraduate students working under faculty guidance. Research policies ensure that researchers have the information they need to comply with federal and state laws and regulations governing the conduct of research. The Office of Research Integrity in the Research and Innovation Office (RIO) is a centralized source for policies related to the ethical and legal conduct of research, including, for example, animal care and use, conflicts of interest, export controls, human research protocols, and the responsible conduct of research. In 2018, CU Boulder, through its Office of Animal Research, gained accreditation status from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, whose mission is to serve as a bridge between research progression and animal well-being. The Office of Contracts and Grants (OCG) website includes research policies pertaining to sponsored project research, including property, travel, accounting and cost-sharing, among other areas. OCG’s Roles and Responsibilities Matrix, among other resources, clarifies the ethical and legal responsibilities of principal investigators and administrative staff in the life cycle of a sponsored project. As mentioned in 2.A., the Controller’s Office was reorganized in 2018 to strengthen fiscal integrity and reporting, including for Sponsored Project Accounting.

Allegations of misconduct in the research process are investigated by the Standing Committee on Research Misconduct, whose findings and recommendations are forwarded to the provost.

2.E.2. Before registering for classes, new undergraduate students, including both first-year and transfer students, must complete the Online Experience, an online orientation program that includes training in academic honesty, avoiding plagiarism and proper citation of sources. Individual programs are responsible for training graduate students in the ethical use of information resources as part of their training in research and creative work. A 2014 survey of graduate students found that 31% of respondents reported not knowing where to report research misconduct if they were to encounter it. In response, the Graduate School instituted orientations for new unit directors of graduate studies to train them in campus policies and procedures, including those involving research ethics and integrity, and added a research ethics and integrity component to the training given to graduate students who serve as peer mentors. Graduate students supported by National Institutes of Health or National Science Foundation grants are required to complete formal Responsible Conduct of Research training; CU Boulder leadership is considering expanding this required training to include all graduate students.

The University Libraries offers learning opportunities for faculty, staff and students in the form of course-integrated research seminars, workshops, online learning objects, individual research consultations and virtual or in-person research services. Typically, sessions cover concepts of the research process, specific research tools, strategies, information literacy concepts, and practices for evaluating news and information. In working with students and scholars, librarians emphasize ethical responsibilities of properly crediting other authors and creators as well as an understanding of complexity of rights and ownership as related to information and knowledge.

2.E.3. The "CU Boulder Honor Code and Procedures" provides a process to adjudicate matters of academic integrity. It covers all students enrolled in credit or noncredit classes and applies to graduate as well as undergraduate students. Cases are adjudicated by an advisory board made up of faculty and students; the process is administered by the director of the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. In the spring 2018 semester, the structure and procedures of the advisory board were...
reorganized to (1) include faculty as well as student representation and (2) clear a backlog of cases and shorten the time from reports of violations to resolution. While the newly restructured advisory board includes graduate student membership, additional graduate student representation may be needed to review cases involving graduate students in a timely fashion.

While the law school maintains its own honor code and procedures, it reports violations to the Honor Code advisory board via the director of the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.

2. Summary. CU Boulder seeks to adhere to the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct in its research, teaching, and service to the campus community and to the public, and also seeks to improve practices that facilitate those standards. Indeed, CU Boulder understands its ethical responsibilities as crucial to the public good. Our task is not merely to conform to the ethics and compliance policies and procedures set by the University of Colorado System, the state of Colorado and the federal government, but also to guide, model and encourage students in engaging in ethical practice and ethical citizenship. To this end, the chancellor has established that the university’s strategic imperative of shaping tomorrow’s leaders (see 1.A.1.) involves educating students who are committed to demonstrating honor, integrity, accountability, respect and contributions to the common good. The Academic Futures strategic initiative (see 1.A.3.) calls for the university to renew its commitment to the democratic and civic purposes of public higher education by embracing the core mission of furthering the public good. Moreover, the top project resulting from Academic Futures, creating a common student-centered approach to learning, puts this value at the very heart of both undergraduate and graduate education at CU Boulder. As the Academic Futures report puts it, “When we ask students what kind of Buff they want to be, we cannot stop with ‘I’m a history Buff,’ for example, but must go on to state the ethical and intellectual qualities that should mark our graduates” (p. 41). The campus has thus publicly committed itself not only to behaving ethically but also to teaching ethical practice as an integral part of CU Boulder’s civic engagement and civic responsibility.