



Boulder Faculty Assembly

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Final

BFA General Assembly

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

The Boulder Faculty Assembly held a regular meeting on Thursday September 3rd, 2026, in person at the CU Law School, Classroom 301, with a Zoom option. BFA Chair David Paradis presided over the meeting. The meeting convened at 4:01 p.m. and was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Please see the [CU-Boulder Today news story](#) on the meeting.

- I. Welcome – David Paradis, BFA Chair
- II. Presentation: Reserve Budget Policy — Todd Haggerty, Senior VC for Business, Finance, and Infrastructure, & Mandy Cole, Associate VC for Budget & Finance & Deputy Financial Officer

Haggerty and Cole presented on a proposed campus reserve policy as part of a broader [Financial Stewardship Initiative](#) with the goal to modernize how CU Boulder's reserves are managed across campus and create a coordinated framework. Haggerty shared that although the campus is in a relatively strong financial position, reserve practices currently are very decentralized. Haggerty also discussed the budget model design review, a formal process which looks at the campus budget allocation model every 3-5 years, the review is conducted with three governance committees with faculty, deans and financial leaders. The last review concluded this June of 2026, and suggestions made were approved by Chancellor Schwartz.

Haggerty shared that Boulder is an outlier and most peer institutions already have formal reserve policies and because of this uneven approach, there are many units' saving money that could be put towards personnel for example, but that funding is being saved for deferred maintenance, like roof repair, because the unit isn't sure who is handling that cost. He also shared that recent federal funding disruptions, highlighted that units had uneven and inequitable abilities to respond to loss of revenue. He emphasized that reserves are important and the goal is to have unit agility and help manage institutional volatility.

The objectives of the policy are to optimize institutional spending power, clarify roles and enable decision making, reduce fragmentation and duplication, manage perception, address deferred needs, modernize financial practices and increase agility.

Cole addressed some of the changes to the draft policy after the initial round of feedback from stakeholders, noting that the policy avoids blunt across the board actions like was present in

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previous drafts, clarifies preexisting funding and spending commitments, and should clarify how funds and investment decisions will be made. They both emphasized they appreciated the conversations and comments they have received and encouraged further feedback reminding those present the policy was still in draft form.

The proposed draft policy uses thresholds as a percent of the continuing budget, with reserves held at no greater than a particular set percentage. The draft policy had different threshold levels for: institutes, support units, auxiliary funds and schools and colleges, since each group faces different revenue structures and volatility levels.

The example Haggerty and Cole used of the draft policy in practice was for schools and colleges integrated over a three-year cycle:

- Year 1: The reserve threshold will be 35% of the continuing budget, and 15% exceeding that threshold is invested at the campus level.
- Year 2: Threshold remains at 35% and all exceeding balances would be invested at the campus level.
- Year 3: The reserve threshold will be dropped to 20% as the ongoing target and all exceeding balances are invested at campus level.

Haggerty and Cole emphasized that several categories would not count towards the policy such as faculty startup and retention funds, required campus reserves, and certain restricted funds and speedtypes, and they were working toward creating standard coding to allow these funds to remain untouched. Cole shared that an implementation group would be created to handle the technical details associated with the rollout, consult with unit finance leaders, and review and refine business processes across FY27. Other work projected to be done across FY27 included identifying operational impacts, pursuing formal policy approval and enhancing and clarifying fund responsibilities.

Discussion and questions around the topic raised concerns on the possible effects on individual faculty accounts and long-term research planning. Some faculty noted worry over if units would have enough flexibility to support graduate students during funding volatility, Haggerty shared that in the most current funding cuts related to the federal transition, some units were able to respond and fund their students, while others had no way of doing so, raising equity issues. Other questions asked about departmental ability to respond quickly to crises.

III. Presentation: [Campus Values Project Update](#) — Jon Leslie, Senior Director of Special Projects, & Sonia DeLuca Fernancez, Senior VC for Leadership

Leslie and DeLuca Fernandez presented on an update to the Campus Values Project, an ongoing project intended to create a shared set of institutional values for CU Boulder. The two discussed the timeline of the project, with open call for discussions and a survey in the Fall of 25, the survey closed and then feedback was analyzed in January and February of 2026, and the Values Authoring

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committee was formed in March of 2026. Over April and May the Values committee authored the [Values Document](#) linked, and the same document is being presented to shared governance and leadership with opportunity for feedback over the summer and through this fall. Leslie and DeLuca Fernandez emphasized that neither of them were on the committee, nor did they author any of the work in the [Values Document](#). The committee was made up of BFA, GPSG, CUSG, Staff Council and other community stakeholders, led by Julia Zigarelli, and Ashley Grice, and worked to produce 9 possible values with definitions and examples of said values in practice. Leslie noted it was not the first time such a project had been done, and that part of the reason this project had been launched was because campus values was often referenced when conducting campus work, but there was no values document to refer to, or ground work in.

DeLuca Fernandez noted that the final campus values would likely be between 4-6 total values, and that feedback from constituency groups emphasized clear, plain language definitions, and that values should be connected to accountability, and transparency, not just used as marketing slogans. Discussion and questions related to the presentation asked about what the purpose was of creating campus values now, the difference between campus values and department level values, and how values will be mobilized. DeLuca Fernandez and Leslie asked for representatives [to take this survey](#) and provide feedback on the draft values and that they would continue to share updates on the project and its implementation once a last best draft had been crafted.

IV. Vote: [Improving Representation for Large Units](#) – Bobby Benim, BFA Parliamentarian

Benim discussed the motion which is designed to address a discrepancy discovered in BFA seat assignments, in which 70% of assigned representative seats are from A&S, but only 47% of the Faculty Senate are from A&S. This discrepancy is due in part to the number of departments A&S has, but the motion will allow units above certain numerical thresholds additional representatives each time they pass said threshold. Introducing these new seats will make the BFA seats more closely align with the current makeup of the Faculty Senate. The additional representatives are voluntary for each School/College/Unit, and each year the Parliamentarian will inform units of any changes in their seats. **The motion passed via Qualtrics ballot from September 3-4th with 39 affirmative votes, 1 negative votes, and 1 abstention.**

V. Vote: [Update Campus Operations & Resources Committee Charge](#) – Dan Riffell, CORC Chair

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Paradis discussed the motion on behalf of CORC chair Dan Riffell which updates the CORC charge by taking out references to departments and titles which are no longer used or have been dissolved. **The motion passed via Qualtrics ballot from September 3-4th with 39 affirmative votes, 0 negative votes, and 2 abstentions.**

VI. Chair's Update – David Paradis, BFA Chair

a. Follow up from Spring AI Survey

Paradis discussed the results of the spring AI survey sent out by the BFA last spring, [with both charts](#) and a [summary of the open-ended comments](#) provided by survey respondents. The majority of those who responded viewed the ChatGPT partnership as an intrusion on faculty control over the curriculum, and a de facto endorsement of AI tools. Paradis brought those results to Chancellor Schwartz in early June and discussed next steps.

Paradis noted that he has been working with staff council to create a follow up AI survey which will go out to faculty, staff and students in October.

b. AI & Collective Bargaining Working Groups

Paradis shared some of the updates in the above agenda point, noting that a campus-wide AI strategic steering committee has been formed, with the BFA chair serving as the BFA representative alongside other governance and stakeholder groups. The committee will meet once a week for the next few months and that the committee is reviewing whether to renew, extend or end the OpenAI agreement. Paradis shared he proposed monthly reports by the steering committee to relevant BFA committees to ensure transparency. After his update there were questions clarifying what action steps had been taken after [a resolution passed the previous year on AI](#), and faculty oversight mechanisms related to AI work with Paradis clarifying that the steering committee was not a BFA committee but a campus committee which BFA held representation on. There was brief clarification on the work being done on the Boulder campus level versus at the Faculty Council level.

Paradis shared additional updates on the collective bargaining working group, which met over the summer with substantial reading and discussion. The group is set to make a formal report to the BFA this November and is currently writing their report. Paradis noted that the group was led by BFA Chair-Elect Deb Palmer.

c. Compact 2.0

Paradis discussed the recent letter published by the Secretary of Education often referred to as “Compact 2.0” which asks universities to post a response on their website. Paradis noted that the compact is in less overtly threatening language than compact 1.0 but makes requests which likely violate regent law. The letter asks universities to put their responses on their website by the end

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of the year addressing a variety of topics, which relate to admissions, faculty hiring, academic misconduct, protests on campus etc. He asked if anyone is interested in serving on a group to craft a response, or to discuss not responding, to reach out to him. Paradis noted that if the university was going to respond, a response would need to be prepared, but that it didn't mean a response was an action that had to be taken.

Representative Jed Brown shared that the Association of American Universities (AAU) encouraged universities to not sign Compact 1.0, but helped craft Compact 2.0 and encouraged people to take collective action and protest AAU leadership. Paradis asked reps to get feedback from their constituents and noted that a request for feedback was sent out two weeks, but only a few number of reps overall had responded at that point. He reminded everyone how important it is to have data to show leadership on what faculty want regarding next steps on this item. Paradis shared that he had initially written a letter to President Saliman and shared it with the faculty council executive committee encouraging a collective non-response, but the other campuses were not interested in joining onto the letter so he pivoted and is having ongoing discussions with Chancellor Schwartz.

d. Get Out the Vote Slides

Paradis discussed a series of slides which he encouraged reps to present to their students and to send to their constituents. The deck included three slides, one on why voting matters, noting upcoming local races, one discussing voter registration, and one slide covering how to vote. The slides are available in the OneDrive for reps to use in PowerPoint and PDF format. Curtis will also email the slides out to the reps.

e. BFA Elections Internal & External

Paradis shared that the ballots for BFA's internal elections were to close that evening (September 3rd) and reminded reps to vote. He shared that external nominations would go out the following week and would include open committee seats, one BFA at-large vacancy, and CU Faculty Council open committee seats. BFA reps who missed the internal election deadline were encouraged to nominate themselves during external elections. *[Due to an ememo delay the external nomination form did not go out until the week of September 14th.]*

VII. Other Announcements – David Paradis, BFA Chair

Paradis announced a new event the “BFA Community Gathering Lunch” on Thursday, September 24th from 11-1 p.m. in the Gold & Silver Room. The event is intended as an open space for BFA representatives and committee members to gather, enjoy good food, and connect with their BFA colleagues. The event is designed for people to drop in and out over the lunch hour to allow for as much schedule flexibility as possible.

Paradis and Curtis also discussed a new parking process for this year, which Curtis emailed reps about prior to assembly, and will continue to email the details each month when she sends out the

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agenda. Previously parking was available only for attendees with pre-existing permits in two specific lots. Now parking is free for assembly attendees, but only in lot 470 from 3:30-6 p.m. and only with the specific form. Attendees must re-register via the form each month on the day of assembly using a specific code to get parking validation. Curtis also warned that using the form does not guarantee spots will be available.

VIII. Meeting Adjournment

APPROVED

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