



## BFA General Assembly

### Meeting Summary

- **Presentation: Reserve Budget Policy — Todd Haggerty, Senior VC for Business, Finance, and Infrastructure, & Mandy Cole, Associate VC for Budget & Finance & Deputy Boulder 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, and the policy is meant to help modernize financial practices. Cole and Haggerty noted that Boulder is an outlier and most peer institutions already have formal reserve policies and that recent funding disruptions, highlighted that units had uneven and inequitable ability to respond to such disruptions.
  - 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, and modernize financial practices and increase agility.
  - Cole addressed some of the changes to the draft policy after feedback from stakeholders, noting that the policy avoids blunt across the board actions like was present in previous drafts, clarifies preexisting funding and spending commitments, and should clarify how funds and investment decisions will be made.
  - The proposed draft policy uses thresholds with different threshold levels for: institutes, support units, auxiliary funds and schools and colleges, since each group faces different revenue structures and volatility levels.
  - The draft example Haggerty and Cole used of the 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

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- Year 3: The reserve threshold will be dropped to 20% as the ongoing target and 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 restricted funds and speedtypes, and they were working toward creating standard coding to allow these funds to remain untouched.
- 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.
- Haggerty and Cole emphasized that the policy was still in its draft form and will continue going through consultation and shared governance review, with an implementation working group to be formed to address rollout details.
- **Presentation: [Campus Values Project Update](#) — Jon Leslie, Senior Director of Special Projects & Sonia DeLuca Fernandez, Senior VC for Leadership**
  - Leslie and DeLuca Fernandez presented on an update to the Campus Values Project, a year long 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, and feedback analyzed and then presented to a Values Authoring committee in March of 26. Leslie and DeLuca Fernandez emphasized that neither of them were on the committee, nor did they author the [Values Document](#) produced. The committee was made up of BFA, GPSG, CUSG, Staff Council and other community stakeholders, and committee members worked over April and May producing 9 possible values with definitions and examples of said values in practice.

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- DeLuca Fernandez and Leslie 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, transparency, not just marketing slogans. Discussion and questions related to the presentation asked about what was the purpose 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: [https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0pwAHO0B2rJO3vU](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0pwAHO0B2rJO3vU) providing 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.
- **VOTE: Improving Representation for Larger 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 3-4<sup>th</sup> with 39 affirmative votes, 1 negative votes, and 1 abstention.**
- **VOTE: Update to the Campus Operations & Resources Committee Charge — David Paradis, BFA Chair on behalf of Dan Riffell, CORC Chair**
  - Paradis discussed the motion on behalf of CORC chair Dan Riffell which updates the CORC charge taking out references to departments and titles which are no longer used or have been dissolved. **The motion passed via**

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**Qualtrics ballot from September 3-4<sup>th</sup> with 39 affirmative votes, 0 negative votes, and 2 abstentions.**

- **Chair's Update — David Paradis, BFA Chair**

- [Follow-up from Spring AI Survey](#)

- Paradis discussed the results of the spring AI survey noting that survey respondents viewed the ChatGPT partnership as an intrusion on faculty control over the curriculum, and a de facto endorsement of AI tools. 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.

- AI & Collective Bargaining Working Groups

- Paradis additionally shared 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 committee to relevant BFA committees to ensure transparency.
    - 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, noting that the group was led by BFA Chair-Elect Deb Palmer.

- [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 violate regent law. 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. He noted that if the university was going to respond,

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a response would need to be prepared, but that it didn't mean a response was an action that had to be taken. Discussion noted that CU didn't sign on to a statement that other CO higher education institutions did sign onto, and that the AAU encouraged universities to not sign Compact 1.0, but helped craft Compact 2.0. Paradis asked reps to get feedback from their constituents and noted that a request for feedback was sent out two weeks, but few people had responded at that point. He reminded everyone how important it is to have data to show leadership on what faculty want.

- [Get Out the Vote Slides](#)

- 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.

- BFA Elections Internal & External

- Paradis shared that the ballots for BFA's internal elections were to close that evening (September 3<sup>rd</sup>) 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.

- **Other Announcements & Events**

- Paradis announced a new event the "[BFA Community Gathering Lunch](#)" on Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

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- Paradis and Curtis also discussed a new parking process for this year, which Curtis will email details about each month before assembly. 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 each month on the day of assembly to get parking validation.

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