



Boulder Faculty Senate

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Constitution of the Faculty at the University of Colorado Boulder

This Constitution originates in Regent Law (which requires a Faculty Senate Constitution, which in turn requires a Constitution for each campus Faculty Senate in the CU System) and shall be consistent with both Regent Law and the Constitution of the Faculty Council.

Principles of Faculty Governance

Faculty are essential to the academic mission of CU Boulder, and therefore, the health of that mission requires meaningful faculty participation in all areas of decision-making that pertain to the central academic mission of the university. As it is defined by Regent Law, the faculty embraces the general principle of the obligation to share the governance of the University with campus administrators. Guided by a democratic framework within which it selects its representatives and leaders, and organized in representative bodies, the faculty protects and exercises its prerogative in those areas where faculty are entitled to take the lead and engages in meaningful and robust participation in those areas where the administration takes the lead. Shared governance must be collaborative and deliberative, and in its practice it must foster and advance faculty agency and inclusivity. For details of this division of roles, see Regent Law, Article 5.A.1.

In ordinary practice, faculty governance is shaped by the following principles:

4. Equity. Faculty and administrators share collaborative relationships and work to reach mutually justifiable reasons for policy choices.
2. Free and open expression. The faculty governance organizations provide faculty with occasion and opportunity to make their views known.
3. Deliberation. Faculty have adequate time to learn about and to discuss policy positions.
4. Democratic Participation. Faculty have the right to vote on all matters that come before the representative college, school, and campus faculty bodies. All enfranchised faculty (defined by Regent Law as the "Faculty Senate") have equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of faculty governance through their ability to both select representatives and themselves be representatives in shared governance.
5. Agency. The faculty are entitled to identify the issues that they believe are worthy of their and the administration's consideration.

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6. Transparency. Faculty governance is transparent and bound by University policy and rules of procedure. The rules and mechanisms of shared governance must be open and clear, codified through by-laws as appropriate.
7. Advocacy for all faculty. All faculty, including those not currently in the Faculty Senate as defined by Regent Law, should have the right to participate in shared governance.

The Enfranchised Faculty

The right to share in the governance of CU Boulder is held by most, but not all, of those faculty who participate in the teaching and research mission of the University. The faculty who are entitled to this right are defined by Regent Law, where they are identified as members of what has been referred to traditionally as the “Faculty Senate”. In as much as in practice the “Faculty Senate” is not a corporate entity but rather simply signifies the right to participate in shared governance, this Constitution refers to those faculty who have that right as the “Enfranchised Faculty”.

Enfranchised Faculty have the right to be represented and to be the representative of other faculty in faculty governance bodies. Enfranchised Faculty participate in the selection of their unit’s representative to both their school or college faculty governance organization, and to the campus Boulder Faculty Assembly. Similarly, all Enfranchised Faculty are eligible to be selected to serve as the faculty governance representative for the unit in which they are rostered. Enfranchised Faculty who are not rostered in an academic unit, for instance retired and emeritus faculty, will be represented in faculty governance according to the bylaws of the individual faculty governance bodies.

The Structure of Faculty Governance

The Enfranchised Faculty have voting and decision-making rights in four distinct but overlapping contexts: the academic unit or department in which they are rostered; the school or college (or subset of the same) of which their unit is a component; the Boulder campus as a whole; and the University of Colorado multi-campus system.

4. Unit

All Enfranchised Faculty are entitled to be represented by their academic unit in faculty governance organizations. In a manner determined by each unit’s by-laws, they are also entitled to be selected to be the representative of their academic unit to faculty governance organizations.

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2. School and College (and subsets of Schools and Colleges).

As required by Regent Law, all Schools and Colleges shall have an organized faculty governance body. The nature of representation is subject to the organization's bylaws, but all Enfranchised Faculty of the School or College are represented in their corresponding faculty governance body. These bodies share governance with the administrators of the individual School or College.

3. Boulder Faculty Assembly.

The BFA is the campus-wide faculty governance organization. Shared faculty governance involves the BFA and campus administrators in matters that involve all the faculty at CU Boulder.

4. Faculty Council.

The Faculty Council is the faculty governance body that represents all the faculty of the four campuses of the University of Colorado. Faculty Council shared governance allows the faculty to collaborate with CU system administrators.

Collaboration

Collaboration between faculty and administration on major decisions affecting the welfare of the University is a guiding principle of the shared governance recognized by the laws and policies of the Board of Regents, and the laws and regulations of the state of Colorado. The nature of that collaboration varies according to the nature of the issues in question, but the principles of equity and transparency are always upheld. In practice, that collaboration occurs between administrators and the faculty through their faculty governance organizations. The faculty governance organizations are structured so that there will be constant and effective collaboration in all aspects of the University's operations that pertain to the central academic mission of the university, including both those areas that are primarily the responsibility of the faculty (academic policy and standards, for instance) and those that are primarily the responsibility of administration (relevant resource allocation, for instance).

Amendments to the Constitution.

Amendments to this constitution shall be initiated by a motion introduced at a Boulder Faculty Assembly meeting. After a minimum of 28 days, the motion shall be voted on at the next meeting of the BFA and requires a simple majority vote to pass. If the motion passes, an electronic ballot with the full text of the proposed amendment(s) shall be sent to the enfranchised faculty of the Faculty Senate of CU Boulder. Ballots shall be distributed only after September 1 and prior to April 10. Enfranchised faculty shall have 21 days in which to cast their

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vote. Passage of any amendment requires a two thirds majority of the votes cast, and the vote shall be valid only if at least ten percent of the CU Boulder Faculty Senate cast votes. The vote must be concluded no later than the end of the Spring semester. Amendments go into effect upon approval, which shall be promptly announced to the Faculty Senate.

Adoption and Enablement

This constitution shall be adopted using the same procedures as specified above regarding amendments to the constitution.

The Constitution was approved by the Boulder Faculty Senate on November 3, 2023

APPROVED

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