



University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz

October 21, 2025

Members of the Denver and Boulder Faculty Assemblies,

Thank you for engaging with us on our shared imperative to advocate for higher education in service to our individual work as well as our collective mission. We received your resolutions regarding legal/advocacy cooperatives.

Before we address the specific requests you've made, we want to state clearly that the Regents, and all university leadership support academic freedom as a foundational tenant of Regent Policy. The robust implementation of academic freedom is what makes us a great university. It allows the type of challenging education we want for each student, the compelling scholarship, creativity and research we want for every faculty member, and the significant impact we want for our state, nation and world. Sister to academic freedom is our obligation and commitment to free speech on each of our campuses. Via email, the Regents write about these two priorities to our students at the beginning of each academic year.

Regarding your specific request, we understand the concerns that motivated your resolutions and agree that strategic collaboration is valuable. Given that our collaboration with partners has proven effective, as noted below, we will not be convening the specific effort you outline.

That said, please rest assured that we, along with Chancellors Elliman and Sobanet, will continue our strategic engagement across all of the legal, public relations, public policy and government relations efforts you identified. And we will expand those efforts where and when they are needed.

Our focus to date has been on engaging in ways that we believe are the most effective in advancing our mission, supporting other institutions and looking for opportunities while simultaneously ensuring that we retain the ability to make choices specific to CU when needed. Regarding legal resources specifically, we are already part of a collective of 23 public institutions in Colorado who are represented by the Attorney General's Office. As part of an existing agreement with the State, CU provides funding to that office.

We believe we are accomplishing much of the work you laid out in your resolution and how our efforts have had concrete results. Some specific examples of our work include the following:

- Our leadership team spearheaded efforts, in partnership with other public and private Colorado research institutions including Colorado State University, Colorado School of Mines, University of Denver and University of Northern Colorado, to develop a letter to our Congressional delegation focused on negative impacts on researchers and research funding relative to indirect cost recovery actions and proposals. This letter, supported by CU Denver, UCCS, CU Anschutz and CU Boulder, has been used by our delegation to advocate on behalf of our university as well as our partner universities.
- We successfully worked with 16 other NOAA Cooperative Institutions – including CSU –to directly engage Secretary Lutnick and Director Vought on the importance of maintaining the funding to NOAA to avoid cuts to CIRES.
- As one of the state public institutions of higher education represented by the Colorado Attorney General, we participate in coordinated legal efforts to defend our priorities. Many of these cases resulted in TRO's and are working their way through the legal system. At the request of the Colorado AG, CU has provided campus declarations included in multiple lawsuits filed by the AG, and many other state attorneys general and other higher education associations, to halt federal actions detrimental to our work. At the request of the AG, our campuses provided the following declarations:
 - CU Boulder and CU Denver provided declarations outlining impacts to CU relative to a lawsuit regarding the National Science Foundation reimbursement rate reductions. The lawsuit successfully halted those actions.
 - CU Boulder provided a declaration outlining impacts to CU relative to a lawsuit regarding the U.S. Department of Energy reimbursement rate reductions. The lawsuit successfully halted those actions.
 - CU Denver provided a declaration outlining impacts to CU relative to a lawsuit regarding the purported grant modification/termination issued by the Department of Education.
 - CU Boulder and CU Anschutz Medical Campus provided declarations outlining impacts to CU relative to a lawsuit regarding the National Institutes of Health reimbursement rate reductions.

- CU Boulder campus has partnered with the AAU on a state and a national advertising campaign to raise awareness about the value of research that has directly resulted in outreach to members of Congress.
- CU Boulder, CU Denver, UCCS and CU Anschutz have engaged in communications strategies to raise awareness about the impact of changes in research funding.
- The CU system office supported comment letters submitted by CU Denver, UCCS, CU Boulder and CU Anschutz urging there not be limitations on the duration of stay for certain types of international student VISA holders.

The President's office and leadership on each campus remains laser-focused on engaging where we can have the greatest impact on advancing our priorities. We agree with the Boulder Faculty Assembly and the Denver Faculty Assembly – who passed similar resolutions – that collaborating across many traditional and non-traditional communities is a critical element of advocating for our mission.

As we move forward, we know and appreciate that you will continue to stay engaged and offer additional input through our shared governance processes. Together, we can make a difference as we work to protect and advance the University of Colorado and the values and importance of higher education in general.

Sincerely,



Todd Saliman
President
University of Colorado System



Justin Schwartz
Chancellor
University of Colorado Boulder



Ken Christensen
Chancellor
University of Colorado Denver