

**Climate Science and Education Committee (CSEC)**

Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA)

University of Colorado Boulder

**Annual Report**

AY 2021–2022

*Part I. Fall 2021*

## Background

AY 2021–2022 was the second year for the BFA Climate Science and Education Committee (CSEC). CSEC was chaired by Kris Karnauskas during Fall 2021, and Carol Cogswell served as acting chair during Spring 2022 while Kris Karnauskas was on sabbatical.

## Summary of Fall 2021 Activities

### *Membership*

Following elections, two new members joined CSEC in Fall 2021: Colleen Reid (Geography) and Emily Dommermuth (Libraries). Member Steve Nerem was on sabbatical during AY2021–2022. Otherwise, the committee membership remained largely the same as in its inaugural year AY 2020–2021.

### *Meetings*

Due to COVID19, all meetings during Fall 2021 were again held virtually on Zoom. Meetings were held on Sep. 22, Oct. 21, Nov. 16, and Dec. 1, 2021. Additional meetings were held for various *ad hoc* subcommittees (*e.g.*, a subcommittee met on Nov. 30, 2021 to plan for the CSEC-led event at the Conference on World Affairs [CWA]). In addition, the CSEC chair (Kris Karnauskas) attended virtually every weekly BFA Executive Committee meeting during Fall 2021.

### *Engagement with the **Conference on World Affairs** (CWA)*

During Fall 2021, rather than hosting a public lecture as a single event, CSEC decided to pursue leading a larger event that connected with the programming of CU Boulder’s Conference on World Affairs (CWA), to be held in Spring (April) 2022. We felt that this would give a broader reach to our efforts, including showcasing to the Boulder community the breadth and depth of the internationally leading climate research at CU Boulder. The idea was raised during the Sep. 22 meeting, and the CSEC chair (Karnauskas) met with the CWA Faculty Director (John Griffin) on Oct. 27. The committee, including an *ad hoc* subcommittee, worked throughout the Fall 2021 (and Spring 2022) to develop and host a panel-based event. The panel event was called “Climate Change: A Global Challenge with Local Opportunities,” and was moderated by Alice Madden (CU Law), with panelists Max Boykoff (CU faculty), Michael Jacobs (CUSG), Susie Strife (Boulder County), and Heidi VanGenderen (CU CU Chief Sustainability Officer). Throughout the Fall (and Spring), CSEC planned for an event that would focus on climate action on a local level and how more of our community can play a role in developing and implementing those solutions.

### *Engagement with **Mission Zero** (Scott King)*

In September 2021, one of the CSEC resource members (Max Boykoff) introduced Scott King to the CSEC chair (Karnauskas). Scott King is a CU alum with an

impressive career/background in engineering and entrepreneurship, also with a passion for addressing climate change and a vision for CU's involvement in that pursuit. Scott King had started an organization called Mission Zero (<https://missionzero.io/>) and established a fund with CU Boulder called the Mission Zero Fund (<https://giving.cu.edu/fund/mission-zero-fund-environmental-initiatives>), which is aimed at supporting student and faculty led projects aimed at developing solutions to climate change. CSEC held several meetings with Scott, including a social gathering (open to all interested CU faculty) at Mr. Scott's residence on Nov. 4, 2021. This is a new and evolving relationship; CSEC continues to explore avenues of collaboration with Scott King and Mission Zero. One tie point is that the CSEC chair (Karnauskas) and other members of CSEC including Heidi VanGenderen and Dave Newport serve on the Executive Committee of the Mission Zero Fund.

*Additional themes and matters arising*

Throughout Fall 2021, CSEC continued discussions of how the CU faculty could play a role in the divestment of CU from the fossil fuel industry. This was a major theme of discussion during the first meeting of the semester on Sep. 22, with a presentation and discussion led by David Paradis. CSEC also pursued resolution of an issue with EV parking on campus. In particular, several faculty members reached out to the CSEC chair with a recommendation to discuss the cost structure of EV parking, which many expressed was unfair and not cast in the spirit of promoting use of electric vehicles and thus lowering our carbon emissions. Discussions were held with members of the CU administration including Tom McGann (Parking Services) and CSEC resource member (and CU Chief Sustainability Officer) Heidi VanGenderen.