



Boulder Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

BFA **Executive Committee** Notice of Motion

Motion to Support CU Boulder Faculty Senate Members Call for Vote of Censure of President Kennedy

BFA-M-2-040121

March 29, 2021

MOVED that the Boulder Faculty Assembly vote to censure University of Colorado President Mark Kennedy for his failure of leadership with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

- *Whereas, diversity, equity, and inclusion are not only paramount moral issues, but also present grave challenges to the University of Colorado with its current reliance on out of state tuition and a declining student demographic;¹*
- *Whereas, the urgency of this issue requires leadership at the highest level of our University of Colorado system, leadership in actions and words;*
- *Whereas, President Kennedy initially refused the advice of the Faculty Council and Staff Council to include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a standalone pillar in his administration's Strategic Plan;*
- *Whereas, President Kennedy sought to require that campus statements on race, immigration, LGBTQ+ issues, and climate change be pre-cleared through his office;²*
- *Whereas, President Kennedy did not support campus efforts to ensure international student visas³ and anti-equity training⁴ against threats to those issues of academic freedom and free speech*
- *Whereas, President Kennedy has a well-documented history of making problematic and hurtful statements without apologies or consequences;⁵*
- *Whereas, President Kennedy continues to diminish the genocide of Indigenous Peoples as "ill treatment"⁶ and has employed the term "Trail of Tears" as a casual idiom, with blatant disregard for that historical event;⁷*
- *Whereas, President Kennedy responded to the the January 6th insurrection at the U.S. Capitol with a partisan message that referenced "identity politics" and "fake news" and*

¹ [Diversity and Higher Education: The Case of CU Boulder \(Roger Pielke Jr. ASCEND Nov. 5, 2020\)](#)

² <https://www.denverpost.com/2020/08/25/cu-free-speech-race-covid-university-of-colorado-sensitive-topics/>

³ <https://coloradosun.com/2020/07/07/colorado-college-students-coronavirus-trump-international/>

⁴ [Faculty Council memo, October 12, 2020, re: White House Executive Order of September 22, 2020](#)

⁵ <https://www.diversifycunow.com/kennedytimeline>

⁶ <https://president.cu.edu/statements/cu-systemwide-lands-recognition-statement>

⁷ <https://www.denverpost.com/2020/09/03/mark-kennedy-trail-of-tears-cu-boulder/>



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*ultimately pivoted to promoting his online education initiative, minimizing the gravity of the events and their impacts;*⁸

- *Whereas, President Kennedy's ongoing conduct undermines the institution's commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion;*
- *Whereas, President Kennedy's ongoing conduct damages the national and international reputation of the University of Colorado as a leader in addressing the humanitarian, social, and technological challenges of the twenty-first century; therefore*

Be it resolved that the president be censured for his failure of leadership with respect to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

Be it resolved that this motion to censure be shared with the Board of Regents for consideration in connection with their evaluation of President Kennedy's appointment and contract at the upcoming Board of Regents meeting in June.

Approved by the BFA Executive Committee: March 22, 2021

Submitted to the BFA General Assembly: April 1, 2021

Scheduled date for Assembly Vote: April 29, 2021

⁸ <https://president.cu.edu/newsletter/january-2021/helping-heal-our-nations-divisiveness>