



Boulder Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

BFA Executive Committee Notice of Motion
Motion to Support Call for Vote of Censure of President Kennedy
BFA-M-2-040121

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

Whereas, the Board of Regents is evaluating President Kennedy's appointment and contract at its upcoming June meeting, and faculty have a responsibility to offer advice in that regard;

Whereas, diversity, equity, and inclusion are not only paramount moral issues, but also present grave challenges to the University of Colorado;

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 did not initially include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a stand-alone pillar in his administration's Strategic Plan, choosing instead to make "Diversity and Access" one of four subcomponents of Pillar 1 ("Affordably Educate");¹

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 delayed his support of campus efforts to ensure international student visa protections in light of the Trump administration's executive orders;³

Whereas, President Kennedy has a well-documented history of making problematic and hurtful statements;

Whereas, President Kennedy continues to diminish the genocide of Indigenous Peoples as "ill treatment"⁴ and has employed the term "Trail of Tears" as a casual idiom, with blatant disregard for that historical event;⁵

Whereas, President Kennedy's ongoing conduct undermines the institution's commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion;

¹ https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/leaning-into-the-future_08-29-19.pdf

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

³ <https://coloradosun.com/2020/07/13/colorado-international-students-visa-lawsuit-trump-coronavirus/>

⁴ <https://president.cu.edu/statements/cu-systemwide-lands-recognition-statement>

⁵ <https://www.denverpost.com/2020/09/03/mark-kennedy-trail-of-tears-cu-boulder/>



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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.

*Faculty Statement Received by the BFA Executive Committee: March 22, 2021
Submitted to the BFA General Assembly: April 1, 2021
Approved by BFA General Assembly: April 29, 2021
35 In Favor; 20 Opposed; 1 Abstention*