# **CU BOULDER BUDGET REDESIGN**

CU Boulder is transforming its budget allocation model. This effort, officially launched in December 2020 by Chancellor Phil DiStefano, seeks to collaboratively design a campus budget model that better aligns with CU Boulder's mission as a comprehensive public teaching and research institution.

### **Budget model redesign phases**

## PHASE 1

#### DIAGNOSTIC PHASE 1 COMPLETE

- "Alignment analysis" between guiding principles and current state across:
  - Stakeholder interview themes
  - Funds flows and incentives
- Context on historical allocations, including benchmarking
- Recommendations to inform future initiative activities

# PHASE 2

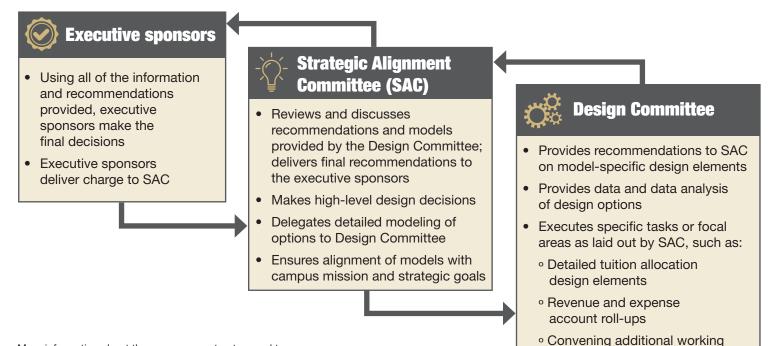
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- Determine organizational structure of the budget model
- Collect data and build actuals model
- Strategic Alignment Committee (SAC) reviews decision points
- Further define model based upon SAC decisions
- Customize budget model
- Continue campus engagement

### PHASE 3 IMPLEMENTATION

- Determine if changes are needed to university budget processes and long-term budget governance
- Define budget governance roles and responsibilities
- Build budget templates
  or tools
- Training for university stakeholders

### **Governance structure and process**



More information about the governance structure and team members can be found at colorado.edu/bfp/budget-model.



groups based on model

design needs

### What's new?

- In February 2021, the Strategic Alignment Committee, which has been meeting regularly since January 2021, charged the Design Committee with the *review and validation of current-state data*. This data will support future budget model design recommendations.
- To better understand the current state of campus budgeting, the remodel design team conducted **stakeholder interviews** with 114 academic and administrative leaders in 38 units and shared governance groups. Key themes included:
  - The new model should prioritize **alignment with clearly stated campus strategic goals**; a better link between activities and outcomes would **promote greater accountability**
  - The current model lacks clarity and transparency; the new model should include an **easy-to-understand allocation of funds**, which would increase transparency and build trust
  - CU Boulder's budget model should reexamine existing incentives for unintended consequences and build **incentives that reflect our values**, what we want to see funded now and into the future
  - Resources should be aligned with **areas of growth and priority** (for example, retention of students), and should take into consideration the **academic and administrative costs associated** with these priorities
  - Stakeholders expressed a desire for a model that supports multiyear planning and that offers some measure of predictability
  - Institutional data is generally trusted, and stakeholders would like to see improved data integration and data governance
  - Stakeholders would like to see a campuswide vs. siloed approach to budgeting, citing simplified financial reporting and a common budgeting tool as options for eliminating unit-level shadow systems and processes

### What's next?

The budget model redesign has concluded the diagnostic phase and transitioned into solution design. We have committed to the collaborative design of a campus budget model that will better align with our mission as a comprehensive public teaching and research institution. To meet this commitment, we need your ideas!

- Please look for announcement of dates and times for budget redesign listening sessions (April–May) and BYO coffee and the campus budget presentations (April) in CU Boulder Today.
- Visit colorado.edu/bfp/budget-model for additional information, updates and to get involved.

