

# **The Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization University of Colorado Boulder**

## **Bylaws**

Approved by the Center's Executive Committee, October 5, 2017

First revision August 28, 2019

Second revision November 4, 2020

### **Article I. Name and Mission**

Section 1. The name of the organization is the Bruce D. Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization (henceforth "the Benson Center").

Section 2. The Center's mission is to broaden the sphere of conversation at the University of Colorado, exposing students and the larger community to the full range of rigorous intellectual discourse that takes place in today's world. The Center takes as its starting-point the meanings of the Western intellectual tradition, and seek to showcase respectful, intelligent debate over the issues that matter most to our society.

The Center seeks speakers and events that explore the Western intellectual tradition in its complexities and connect that tradition with the political and cultural issues that are the subject of debate today. The Center fosters open dialogue rather than acrimonious debate and serves as a home for thoughtful reflection rather than partisan rhetoric. The Center seeks out viewpoints based on the standards and principles of academic inquiry/research that reflect the wide range of opinions across society—from conservative and liberal to radical and all points in between—provided that speakers respect the fundamental rights and equality of all human beings, values that are enshrined in the University's Colorado Creed as well as in the founding of this nation, and that the Center passionately upholds.

### **Article II. Organization**

Section 1. The Center reports directly to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Section 2. The work of the Center is overseen by the Center's Director. The Director is responsible for the operation, management, and administration of the Center and its activities. The Center may also have an Associate Director. An Associate Director advises the Director and assists the Director in carrying out the Center's mission.

Section 3. The Center shall have an internal faculty advisory board, known as the Executive Committee, whose members serve as advisors to the Center's Director on all matters concerning the Center.

Section 4. The Center shall have an external advisory board, known as the Board of Advisors, whose members provide advice and assistance with respect to the Center's role and mission.

### **Article III. The Director**

Section 1. All decisions regarding programs, initiatives, budgeting, fund-raising, and other Center-related matters are the responsibility of the Director with input from the Board of Advisors and the Executive Committee. The Director reports directly to the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, or to his/her designee.

Section 2. The Director shall be appointed by the Chancellor, in consultation with the Provost, the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, the President of the University, the Executive Committee and the Board of Advisors. A committee, including a member of the Advisory Board, will advise on that appointment from among a group of identified finalists. The Director may be removed from this position at any time by order of the Chancellor, in consultation with these same entities.

Section 3. The Director must be a member of the CU Boulder faculty.

Section 4. The Director may be appointed to a term of service of no more than four years. Appointments as Director are renewable. If the Director goes on leave during the period of his or her appointment, an Interim Director may be appointed to a term of no more than one year.

Section 5. The Director will meet at least annually with the Executive Committee and with the Board of Advisors.

Section 6. The Director will prepare an annual report after the close of each fiscal year. The report will summarize the Center's activities for the current academic year, outline plans for the following academic year, and include information about the budget for both years. The report will be made available to all members of the Executive Committee, the Board of Advisors, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and donors.

### **Article IV. The Executive Committee**

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of no fewer than eight and no more than ten members. Members of the committee shall include the Center Director and a current Visiting Scholar for Conservative Thought and Policy. The remaining members must be CU Boulder faculty.

Section 2. The Director shall serve as Chair of the Executive Committee. The Board shall meet at least annually. Additional meetings may be called as needed by the Director or at the request of at least two-fifths of the members of the Executive Committee. Reasons for the meeting shall be stated in advance. A quorum for conducting any business shall consist of one-half of the total members of the Board.

Section 3. Members of the Executive Committee shall represent a wide range of philosophical and political views. Committee members shall be appointed by the Director, in consultation with the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and with current and former Committee members. Board members serve three-year terms. Appointments to the Board are renewable.

Section 4. The Executive Committee will advise the Center's Director, promoting the interests, and advancing the projects and programs of the Center as it pursues its mission. Examples of Committee's activity include suggesting programs and activities for the Center, reviewing and providing comments on proposals brought to the Committee by the Director, helping to publicize Center events, and serving as a conduit between the Center and the rest of the University.

Section 5. In the event that one or more members of the Executive Committee wishes to raise a grievance against the Director, the committee may meet as a whole, without the Director, to consider the merits of the complaint. Any resolution passed by this grievance committee shall be conveyed both to the Director and to the dean of the college.

Section 6. The Executive Committee may establish standing and *ad hoc* committees to help it assist the Center in carrying out its mission. *Robert's Rules of Order* governs the conduct of its meetings.

## **Article V. The Board of Advisors**

Section 1. The Board of Advisors shall consist of no fewer than ten and no more than twelve members. It shall seek out representatives from the worlds of law, business, politics, philanthropy, the arts, sciences, and the academy, and shall represent a wide range of philosophical and political views. One or more former Visiting Scholars in Conservative Thought and Policy shall be included on the Board.

Section 2. The Board of Advisors shall be responsible for maintaining the Center's role and mission as described in its founding document, and will provide guidance to the Center in the area of programming, and contributing to the advancement of the Center through its knowledge, experience, leadership, and assistance in raising funds.

Section 3. Board members will be appointed by the Chancellor in consultation with the Provost, the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, the President of the University, and current and former Board members. Board members shall be appointed to three-year terms. Appointments to the Board are renewable.

Section 4. The Chair of the Board of Advisors shall be selected by the Board, in consultation with the Chancellor and President of the University.

Section 5. The Board of Advisors shall meet at least one time each year. Additional meetings may be called as needed by the Chair of the Board. Reasons for the meeting shall be stated in advance. A quorum for conducting any business shall consist of one-half of the total members of the Board.

Section 6. The Board may establish standing and *ad hoc* committees to help it assist the Center in carrying out its mission. *Robert's Rules of Order* governs the conduct of its meetings.

#### **Article VI. Amendment of the Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended at any time with the approval of a two-thirds majority of those present or represented by proxy at a meeting of the Executive Committee, provided that members receive at least seven days written notice of any proposed amendments.