

CWA Governance and Board

In 2015, a joint committee of University and Community members created a formal CWA Governance Structure and Bylaws, and these were approved by the Chancellor. Prior to that, there had never been a Board, a formal governance structure, or Bylaws.

The role of Faculty Director was filled by the Conference founder, Howard Higman, from the beginning of the Conference in 1948 until 1994. After a year hiatus, a new Faculty Director was appointed by the Chancellor in 1996, following an internal CU-Boulder search.

The position of Community Chair was created in 1996, when Community Co-Chairs were appointed by the Chancellor and the new Faculty Director. The first time a Community Chair was elected was in 2015, as stipulated by the newly established Governance Structure and Bylaws.

The Board also was created in 2015. It consists of nine members: four community members elected by the Program Committee, including the elected Community Chair, and five CU-affiliated members appointed by the Chancellor, including the Faculty Director and one student. The Board Chair and Vice-Chair are elected by the Board.

The Board decides CWA policy and procedures. It also has authority to amend the Strategic Plan, the Bylaws, and the Governance Structure. The Board and Faculty Director report to the Chancellor, and the Community Chair reports to the Board.

Board responsibilities include:

- At least quarterly, review progress toward meeting the strategic aims and objectives as proposed in the Strategic Plan.
- Ensure that the CWA vision, values, and mission are reflected in its programs, policies, and activities.
- Decide policies and procedures that support the Strategic Plan.
- Monitor the CWA financial status.
- Approve and monitor the annual business plan.
- Perform an annual program assessment.
- Create and appoint committees.
- Work with the Fundraising Committee to develop fundraising activities and strategies.

Because the Faculty Director and CWA Staff are employees of the University, the Board cannot have hiring or firing authority over them. However, the Board can provide input about Staff performance to the Faculty Director, and about Faculty Director performance to the Chancellor. And because the CWA budget comes from the University, the Board cannot have fiduciary responsibility for the budget. However, it provides budget oversight and makes budget recommendations to the Faculty Director. Thus, in virtually all respects, the CWA Board serves the same functions of a typical governing board of directors.

The CWA Bylaws, Governance Structure, Organizational Chart, and Board Job Description can be found on the CWA website at:

<https://www.colorado.edu/cwa/about/strategic-plan-governance-structure>