



Staff Council

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Boulder Campus Staff Council
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FULL COUNCIL SUMMARY

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

12:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Zoom

In Attendance: Andrew Alexander, Ally Bartley, Rob Blacker, Claudia Acosta, Cameron Brooks, Zach Brown, Kate Cochran, Meagan Combs, Angie Crews, Preston Cumming, Crystal Cyr, Brian DeWolf, Hana Ember, Megan Henning, Jacob Henry, Ian King, Tom Klenow, Grace Maniscalco, Chris Marelli, Jonathan Marenus, Leah McDaniel Parvez, Christopher Mellott, Nicole Morris, Susan Nasher, Claudia Numan, Yasmine Ortuno, Jan Owens, Sean Owens, Mark Palacio Sr., Karrie Pitzer, Carly Pruiett, Sarah Safadi, Jessica Sandoval, Clara Smith, Rose Smith, Alisha Stewart, Megan Varra, Gena Welk, Lauren Way, Alicia Stewart

Not in Attendance: Sara Abdulla, Kelsey Draper, Ginnie Hershbarger, Natalia Johnston, John Tran, Kathy Stutzman, John Carlson, Dev Chaudhary, Vanessa Dunn

Joining Late: Mike Williamson

HR Liaison: Carla Anthony

Guests: Kristin Martina, Merna Jacobsen

12:17 p.m. CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL

- Two New Reps joining Full Council: [Kelsey Draper](#) (not present) and [Preston Cumming](#)

12:27 p.m. Approval of August meeting minutes- not needed

12:30 p.m. GUEST SPEAKER: Employee Engagement Survey Results – Merna Jacobsen & Kristin Martina

Went over results, [Staff Council Survey Results Deck 2025.pdf](#)

PowerPoint saved in meeting folder as well

1:00 p.m. OFFICER INTRODUCTIONS & REPORTS

Chairs' Report and Announcements –Crystal Cyr, Jessica Sandoval, Leah McDaniel Parvez

- Resolution Timeline updates- Discussed with University Leadership
- Went over slide deck on all Tri-Chair updates, slide deck in meeting folder

Vice-Chair Report — Ginnie Hershbarger and Megan Varra

- Great turnout and feedback on Retreat
- Speaker Series info coming!

Treasurer's Report – Yasmine Ortuno

- No update yet, waiting for access

Human Resources Report – Carla Anthony

- New HR Liaison: Carla Anthony, Asst VC ER, Compliance & Performance Mgmt

Staff Council Administrator – Eryn Van Poole (out today)

Questions for the Secretary? – Cameron Brooks

Questions for the Parliamentarian? – Mike Williamson

1:20 p.m. NEW BUSINESS & PULSE ITEMS

1. NEW BUSINESS – ExEI Committee – Lauren Way or Jonathan Marenus
 - a. Staff Council Observatory Night

- b. Reach out & share! Grab lunch when able, lets connect!
- 2. PULSE ITEM- IN PROGRESS – Carly Pruiett
 - a. *we've asked Area 9 reps to raise this one with OIT. Is there any additional discussion we need to have for those reps to be able to advocate effectively?*
 - i. OUE advising leadership are wondering if staff council could work on getting it so that the university allows staff to include accents and correct capitalization (ex. DaMontá) in Microsoft products (teams, outlook, etc.). They said that faculty can do it, but OIT shared with the individual who reached out that they won't do it for staff.
- 3. PULSE ITEM- IN PROGRESS – Claudia Numan – Emergency Campus Wide Messaging
 - a. *we've asked the CORB delegates to raise this one. Is there any additional discussion we need to have for those reps to be able to advocate effectively?*
 - i. It took CU approximately 20 minutes after the police arrived at Norlin for CU to send out a campus-wide message announcing the shelter-in-place order. Before that message came out, the campus community was given no indication that something was happening unless you happened to walk near Norlin and saw the police presence. I understand not wanting to create panic and the importance of assessing a situation before sending out communication, but the 20 minute overlap from when the event started and the time the campus community was notified is unacceptable. This lack of communication from the campus left open doors for rumors and confusion, the opposite of what is helpful during situations like these. If the situation had not been a hoax, it also potentially left our campus community vulnerable for physical harm as no one as informed of what was happening. I imagine having people around the site and having to be told to stay away took precious time from the responding officers, which could cause even more chaos. Events like this should never happen in the first place, but because they do, we need to get all important and relevant information to campus as quickly as possible.
- 4. PULSE ITEM – Sarah Westmoreland, Education Abroad – Tuition Assistance Benefit for Retirees' Dependents
 - a. Greetings, I would love for Staff Council to advocate for the Tuition Assistance Benefit to be available to dependents of CU retirees. I happen to have started my career at CU very early and also happen to have had my children at an older age, so it's quite possible I'll be retired by the time they go to college. It seems fair that this benefit should be available to my kids after I have worked at CU Boulder for 25+ years.
- 5. PULSE ITEM – Lorie Fuller, Bursar's Office - I'm writing to ask that Staff Council consider the possibility of adding a tuition benefit for [CU on Coursera](#).

I work for the Bursar's Office on the 3rd Party Sponsorships team. We work with students who are sponsored by companies and organizations who pay student tuition. We have a number of organizations who sponsor CU on Coursera. In case you are unfamiliar with CU on Coursera, these are CU master's degrees that are self-paced and online. We are seeing companies such as Boeing, RTX (Raytheon), Verizon, Army, Navy, and other government organizations sponsoring these programs at an impressive rate.

My colleagues and I have had many discussions regarding the Tuition Assistance Benefit and why it does not extend to CU on Coursera. Much as I appreciate that the funding for Coursera goes through different channels than Main Campus, I find it difficult to understand why CU doesn't offer a tuition benefit for CU on Coursera.

CU on Coursera programs can directly benefit CU by way of providing job-adjacent skills and advanced degrees. I believe CU on Coursera has just gotten started and, given their popularity, there will likely be more programs adopted in the future. CU just picked up an [AI Master's Degree](#) that I think is particularly interesting and could be beneficial for many departments in moving CU forward into new technologies.

I know it takes time for CU to adopt new employee benefits, and we've seen the great strides that staff council has had in responding to requests. I'm asking if you can please discuss the possibility of bringing CU on Coursera programs, either to the existing tuition benefit, or perhaps to a new type of benefit. I don't know what future programs CU may offer, but I'd love to see us be ready as opportunities arise.

1:50 p.m. DELEGATE UPDATES

Group 1

- ✓ UCSC, University of Colorado Staff Council: Jan Owens, Yasmine Ortuno, Alisha Stewart
Natalia Johnston (Alternate)

<https://www.cu.edu/blog/work-life/pursue-student-loan-forgiveness-savi>

- ✓ BFA, Boulder Faculty Assembly: Alisha Stewart / Susan Nasher
- ✓ Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG): Megan Varra
- ✓ Student CUSG: Sara Abdulla (out)

2:00 p.m. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Awards & Staff Recognition (ASR) – Jan Owens & Sara Abdulla
 - Research on where to have final meeting & gift currently
 - continue to promote and nominate people for Brightest Buff recognition!
<https://www.colorado.edu/staffcouncil/brightest-buffs>
- Blood Drive & Community Service – Christopher Mellott & Carly Pruiett
 - Volunteers needed continuously!
 - Chistopher to check on blood drive code for remote empl's
 - **Vitalant Code: 0248**
- Committee for Belonging, Equity, Accessibility and Mattering (BEAM)– Clara Smith & Rose Smith
 - No updates
- Communications – Angie Crews & Alisha Stewart
 - Working through the dates for 4 newsletters
- Experience and Elections (ExEI) – Lauren Way & Jonathan Marenus
- Front Line Staff – Sarah Safadi & Meagan Combs
 - Planning events
- Outreach and Events – Jessica Sandoval & Nicole Morris
- Payroll, Benefits, Retirement and Legislative (PBRL) – Grace Maniscalco & Ian King
 - Performance evals, data analysis, staff sabbatical idea

2:15 p.m. ADJOURNMENT motioned, 2ndd 2:06pm

Next scheduled Full Council (FC) Meeting – Wednesday, October 8th – IN-PERSON @ SEEC (Provost in attendance)

Online access to [Roberts Rules](#)

Upcoming Events: [Staff Council Calendar](#)

Newsletter: [May 2025](#)

[SC Engagement Checklist](#)

[Staff Council Handbook](#)

Delegate Assignments

(Reports to be delivered to the Secretary, Cameron Brooks, 3 days prior to full council meetings and to be circulated to Full Council prior 2 days prior to full council meetings. Discussion to follow during Staff Council meeting/s. Urgent information will be shared with the Executive Council.)

Current assignments: Confirming interest in continuing for this year

Group 1

- ✓ UCSC, University of Colorado Staff Council: Jan Owens, Yasmine Ortuno, Alisha Stewart
Natalia Johnston (Alternate)
- ✓ BFA, Boulder Faculty Assembly: Alisha Stewart / Susan Nasher
- ✓ Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG): Megan Varra
- ✓ Student CUSG: Sara Abdulla

Group 2

- ✓ CUPD Community Oversight Review Board: Clara Smith & Gena Welk
- ✓ Campus Use of University Facilities (CUUF): Ian King
- ✓ Pathway Safety Committee: Christopher Mellott
- ✓ Indigenous Peoples Day Signature Event Working Group – BEAM Committee Member