University of Colorado names Mark R. Kennedy as presidential finalist[1]
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The University of Colorado Board of Regents on Wednesday named Mark R. Kennedy as the finalist for president of the university system.

“Mark Kennedy is a proven leader with a diverse set of skills and experiences in higher education, government and business that will allow him to build on the considerable success CU has experienced in recent years and take the university to even greater heights,” said Sue Sharkey, chair of the CU Board of Regents. “My colleagues on the Board of Regents and I are excited to have the CU community meet and get to know him in the coming weeks.”

Kennedy, 61, is president of the University of North Dakota and previously served as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives (Minnesota) from 2001-07. Before Congress, he had a successful business career in leadership positions with some of America’s leading companies, including those that became Macy’s and General Mills. His academic career before UND includes teaching and research at some of the top universities in the United States and internationally. He also directed the Graduate School of Political Management at George Washington University. His full resume is posted here: http://www.cu.edu/finalist-cv[3]

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“My wife, Debbie, and I are first-generation college graduates, so we are passionate about the power of a college degree to positively change the lives of students, their families and their communities,” he said. “I appreciate the chance to work with the Regents and the CU team to expand those opportunities and to elevate CU’s rank among the world’s premier universities.”

The Board of Regents was unanimous in its recommendation to name Kennedy as finalist to replace Bruce D. Benson, who announced in the summer that he would retire from CU after 11 years at the helm. Under Colorado law, a finalist for the position must be publicly named for at least two weeks before being named president.

“The Board of Regents is excited to have a leader of Mark Kennedy’s caliber to share with the CU community,” said Jack Kroll, Board of Regents vice chair. “He has a passion for higher education and a strong commitment to diversity. His work in organizations and institutions of considerable size and scale, as well as his academic experience, make him ideal for our university.”

Sharkey praised the work of the Presidential Search Committee, which conducted a national search in conjunction with the search firm Wheless Partners.

“Our search committee had broad representation from our four campuses, alumni, donors and communities and they did a great job,” Sharkey said. “They presented the regents with a deep and diverse pool of candidates, and we are excited that Mark Kennedy rose to the top.”

Kennedy is scheduled to make visits to each of CU’s four campuses the week of April 22 to meet faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends. The schedule is:
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Below is the letter sent today to the CU community by the Board of Regents:

[4]

2019-20 budget includes 3% compensation pool, flat tuition[5]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents on Friday voted to approve a proposed budget that includes a 3% compensation pool for faculty and staff.

The proposal as presented[6] by Todd Saliman, vice president for budget and finance and chief financial officer, also incorporates flat tuition and flat mandatory fees for resident undergraduate students as required in Gov. Jared Polis' state budget proposal, which is advancing at the Capitol.

Speaking at the board's meeting at 1800 Grant St. in Denver, Saliman said it's the first time in 10-plus years that CU has been able to have a 0% percent tuition increase.

"I'm pleased for our students and their families that we are able to have a 0% tuition increase for next year," said CU President Bruce D. Benson. "We appreciate the support of the governor and legislature, who are providing the funding that makes this possible.

"Still, it is incumbent upon us to continue our efforts to find efficiencies, institute better business practices, streamline bureaucracy and do all the things we have been doing for the past 11 years to ensure a CU education remains affordable, a great value and more important, of high quality."

No increase in tuition and mandatory fees is a condition of the state budget currently advancing at the Capitol. As first proposed by former Gov. John Hickenlooper and supported by current Gov. Jared Polis, the budget provides a 13% increase, or $28.2 million, in funding for CU.

Saliman told the board that recent legislative changes to the state budget, including funding for transportation, had cast doubt on the funding increase for higher education. But as of Friday morning, the boost was intact.

The 3% merit pool totals $36.4 million.

The regents voted 8-1 for the tuition and fee proposals; Regent Glen Gallegos, R-Grand Junction, said before voting no that he couldn't favor the proposals because of the long-term impact at UCCS and CU Denver, both of which are critically reliant on enrollment and tuition revenue.

The compensation motion also passed with 8 votes; Regent Jack Kroll, D-Denver, abstained because he also is a CU Boulder employee and chooses not to vote on pay-related matters.

Read more[7] on tuition details at CU Boulder in CU Boulder Today[7]. Read more[8] on tuition details at UCCS in Communique[8].

In other business at Friday's meeting:
Kathy Nesbitt, vice president for administration, updated the board on the status of the Diversity Task Force, which regents approved at their February meeting. The five-person committee currently includes Nesbitt; Michael Lightner, vice president of academic affairs; and Regents Irene Griego, D-Lakewood; John Carson, R-Highlands Ranch; and Chair Sue Sharkey, R-Castle Rock. The committee had met once as of Friday's meeting and planned to meet again this week. Nesbitt noted she has met several times with Lightner on behalf of the task force. The committee is initially focusing on two of the many aspects of diversity: Diversity among faculty and diversity of thought. "One of the things that we are looking to do is to separate those two topics," Nesbitt said. In addition to the committee members, Joanne Addison, chair of the Faculty Council, planned to join this week's meeting to discuss the faculty's equity and inclusiveness recommendations, including salary equity across CU's four campuses. The regents approved CU's first bachelor's and master's degrees in social work at UCCS. Read more in Communique.[9]
Cathy Beuten contributed to this report.

Regents seeking climate survey by end of semester[10]

The CU Board of Regents on Friday directed administration to move ahead with a universitywide diversity climate survey – if possible, before the end of the semester.

The proposed survey, a follow-up to a 2014 climate survey[11], will again be distributed to students, faculty and staff at the university and has been endorsed by Faculty Council.

As presented at the board meeting by Patrick O'Rourke, vice president, university counsel and secretary of the board, the new survey will be shorter and better target areas of greatest concern to the board, he said. The recommended Diversity Engagement Survey, which was developed by the University of Massachusetts and administered by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), is copyrighted and tested for accuracy and determining benchmarks. Unlike the previous survey, it can be a guide for the regents to weigh the progress of inclusivity in years to come.

O'Rourke said he is speaking with the AAMC this week and will find out whether the survey can be finalized and disseminated within the next couple of weeks.

Before agreeing to move forward, Regent Heidi Ganahl, R-Superior, argued that the 2014 survey should be replicated to determine whether the university has made progress in all levels of diversity, but specifically political philosophy.

"I hear so loud and clear from kids who are on our college campuses how they do not feel accepted, they do not feel they have a voice in the classroom," Ganahl said. "I do not think students or faculty are going to know by the questions you showed that when we're talking about diversity we're talking about diversity of ideas. That we're talking about political ideologies."

O'Rourke noted that political ideology was not a question on the 2014 survey and that because of the low response rate, arduous length and other issues, it could not be used as a benchmark.

Regent Jack Kroll, D-Denver, said that because the campuses are all doing their own climate surveys, the board needs to determine a name that will reflect the goal and set it apart. He also said that the board talks about diversity of thought each meeting without ever coming to an agreement.

"Inclusivity is not a zero-sum game," Kroll said. "We all have to start from that premise. If we start from that premise then maybe we'd make some progress on this issue."

Chancellors from each campus supported the survey and agreed it would be in the best interest of those taking it to receive it before the end of the semester. They also stressed the need for the survey to be given over consistent intervals to ensure that progress – or lack thereof – can most accurately be measured.

Tenure list: April 2019[12]

The CU Board of Regents on Friday approved 17 appointments or awards of tenure, effective April 5, 2019, unless otherwise noted.

CU Boulder

Appointment with tenure[13]
Timothy White, Chemical and Biological Engineering, College of Engineering and Applied Science
CU Denver

Awards of tenure[14]
Steffen Borgwardt, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Troy Butler, Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Emily Gibson, Bioengineering, College of Engineering, Design and Computing William Rodney Herring, English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Meng Li, Health and Behavioral Sciences, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Joanna Luloff, English, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Christopher Miller, Integrative Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Erik Oleson, Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Kannan Premnath, Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, Design and Computing Krista Ranby, Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Xiaojun Ren, Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Marino Resendiz, Chemistry, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Amy Wachholtz, Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Appointment with tenure[15]
Kristin Wood, Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering, Design and Computing, effective May 1, 2019
UCCS

Appointments with tenure[16]
Kevin Laudner, Health Sciences, Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-El College of Nursing & Health Sciences, effective July 16, 2019 Donald A. Rabern, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Engineering and Applied Science, effective July 22, 2019

20 years later: Experts share school safety lessons post-Columbine[17]

Glacier photograph collection now available online[18]

Understanding Remote – UCCS students explore Colorado's smallest schools[19]

Perfectly preserved dinosaur skin found in Korea[20]

'Mayor of Anschutz' is back on the job [21]

Center for Innovative Design and Analysis aids in mining for data[22]

Johnson wins 2019 Hazel Barnes Prize[23]

Aquilante honored with teaching award[24]

Christina Aquilante, PharmD, professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Skaggs School of Pharmacy at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, has received the 2019 Chancellors Teaching Award from the Graduate School of CU Denver.

Aquilante was nominated by graduate students in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Toxicology, and her letter of nomination was supported by her students in Egypt, Singapore and Canada as well as PharmD students from CU Denver.

Her patient-oriented clinical research program is aimed at identifying pharmacogenetic determinants of drug disposition, response, and adverse effects in cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association, American College of Clinical Pharmacy, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, pharmaceutical industry and private foundations.

Aquilante's clinical studies are focused on heart transplant recipients and patients with advanced heart failure. The primary goal of her work is to identify genetic predictors of drug disposition (pharmacokinetics), response (pharmacodynamics) and adverse effects in heart transplant recipients. She is also interested in identifying factors that influence medication regimen complexity and adherence in the heart transplant population.

Recently, Aquilante has expanded her research program to include a cross-disciplinary and translational component. This approach is being used to elucidate mechanisms underlying left ventricular assist device (LVAD)-related adverse effects in patients with advanced heart failure.

Pang named 2019 UROP Outstanding Mentor[25]

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Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/university-colorado-names-mark-r-kennedy-presidential-finalist[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/kennedy_m_pr.jpg[3] http://www.cu.edu/finalist-cv[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/bor_kennedy.jpg[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/2019-20-budget-includes-3-compensation-pool-flat-tuition[6] https://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/BAXSDH578D66/$file/FY%202019-20%20Budget%20Proposal%20April%20BOR%20(final).pdf[7] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2019/04/05/zero-percent-tuition-increase-fall-2019-colorado-resident-students-locked-4-year[8] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=89583[9] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=88936[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-seeking-climate-survey-end-semester[11] https://www.cu.edu/sites/default/files/2014_06-26_Social-Climate-Survey-ExecSum.pdf[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tenure-list-april-2019[13] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BACA5Z72A9AB[14] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BADSDB676983[15] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BAGL3B545C62[16] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BALN6A5B500A[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/20-years-later-experts-share-school-safety-lessons-post-columbine[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/glacier-photograph-collection-now-available-online[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/understanding-remote-uccs-students-explore-colorado-s-smallest-schools[20]

https://connections.cu.edu/stories/perfectly-preserved-dinosaur-skin-found-korea[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/mayor-anschutz-back-job[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/center-innovative-design-and-analysis-aids-mining-data[23] https://connections.cu.edu/people/johnson-wins-2019-hazel-barnes-prize[24] https://connections.cu.edu/people/aquilante-honored-teaching-award[25] https://connections.cu.edu/people/pang-named-2019-urop-outstanding-mentor[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/university-colorado-names-mark-r-kennedy-presidential-finalist