Five questions for Nolbert D. Chavez[1]
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Nolbert D. Chavez may have been a newcomer to the CU Board of Regents when he was sworn in earlier this year, but he's no stranger to CU, nor to leadership. The Lakewood Democrat representing District 7 previously served in the state Legislature (1995-2002) and is Chief of External Initiatives and Executive Director of CityCenter at CU Denver. Yet that's just one of several CU Denver roles.

"I do wear many hats that all relate to CU," Chavez said. "They give me insights into many areas of the CU system, which help me make informed decisions."

A CU Denver administrator for five years, Chavez also is a former lecturer in political advocacy in the School of Public Affairs; a recent EdD student in the School of Education, with a detour in urban planning; a 2016 CU Denver graduate with a master's in political science and public policy; a parent of a CU Denver student studying criminal justice; and a donor to the Kathryn Cheever Memorial Scholarship in the Center for New Directions.

"My experiences help inform the issues," Chavez said. "When the Board of Regents talks about the stresses on our faculty, I understand firsthand what they mean. When we discuss the burden placed on students, I get it. When we discuss the finances of each campus, I know more than most. And the list goes on."

Has he discovered anything new about the institution since joining its governing board?

"I learned that the possibilities for the future of CU are endless!"

1. What interested you in serving on the CU Board of Regents?
[4]

Change rarely happens unless it comes from the top, and in our case, that is the Board of Regents. I saw it reflected firsthand in our reluctance to prioritize DEI (diversity, equity and inclusion) work. For decades, our campus CDOs had been relegated to a narrow scope of responsibilities with little to no authority beyond that. We need an entire culture shift from top to bottom, and the best way for that to happen is if it comes from the Board of Regents.

2. You served four terms in the Colorado House of Representatives, from 1995 through 2002. How are you putting that experience to work in your role as a member of the Board of Regents?

I learned so much in my eight years in the state Legislature. I have also taught political advocacy at CU Denver, and I characterize that experience in the following way: I call it the six P's of politics (or political advocacy). Anyone who is elected or who works in politics or political advocacy has to be an expert in – or at least proficient in – the six P's: People-Process-Policy-Politics-Partisanship-Partnerships.

I hope to bring the lessons I learned in the Legislature to the Board of Regents.

3. In what ways has the pandemic proved most challenging as you take on a new role as a member of the Board of Regents?

Not being able to visit the different campuses has been challenging. We have done the best we can with Zoom meetings, but there is something lost when you can't see something in person. Hopefully there will be enough people vaccinated by fall that things might begin to look normal again.
[5]

4. You and Regents Callie Rennison and Ilana Spiegel, all of whom were elected last November and joined the board in January, announced a 100-day listening tour of the CU community. How are you going about that?

We invited input from all corners of the university community to give feedback related to how they think we are doing.

We hope to use that feedback to inform decisions in the future. We all receive that feedback in different ways from different groups. Some of it is formal feedback and others are conversations among faculty, staff, students and community members.

5. How do you enjoy spending free time?
[6]

In my spare time I enjoy riding my 1977 Harley-Davidson Shovelhead motorcycle, which belonged to my father-in-law for 32 years. My wife bought it from him, for me, as a Father's Day gift eight years ago.

In addition, I collect Montecristi Panama hats. One in particular I can trace back to its original owner, a Mr. CC Dorsey, an affluent attorney in Denver who owned it in the 1930s.

Faculty leaders critical of president's leadership in DEI, shared governance[7]
[8]

Faculty governance groups at the Boulder campus and system level last week leveled criticism at CU President Mark Kennedy over what they say are concerns pertaining to shared governance and to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).

On April 1, a notice of motion for a resolution[9] to censure Kennedy was presented to the Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA). Unlike a normal procedural motion, the process for any resolution calls for a notice of motion and discussion by the campus, then consideration at the next BFA meeting. A vote on the motion approving the resolution will take place at the April 29 BFA meeting. At that time there will be a call for a BFA member to move the motion and for a second. Then, following BFA procedures, amendments to the resolution can be considered and then a vote taken on the final form of the resolution.

At the April 1 BFA meeting, the chair indicated that several Boulder faculty assembly members sent him a letter requesting a resolution be brought to the BFA. Once this request was made, the BFA Executive Committee, following bylaws, placed it on the agenda.

Later in the meeting, members were asked to review the proposed resolution with constituents and then to send feedback to bfa@colorado.edu[10] for consideration this month by the Executive Committee. The BFA Executive Committee will attempt to organize the comments and feedback for effective consideration during the April 29 meeting.

Kennedy said he understands the concerns and respects the BFA's right to bring forward a motion, but he also believes CU is making progress on DEI.

"Advancing DEI is a top priority for the Board of Regents, for me, for the chancellors and for many people throughout the university community," Kennedy said. "I'm proud of the progress that has resulted from the hard work of many people throughout CU, but I also recognize we still have much work to do.

"I am committed to working with our faculty, staff and student shared governance groups, and with anybody else inside or outside the university who shares our priority."

Also on April 1, the systemwide Faculty Council's Executive Committee passed a resolution of reprimand[11] of President Kennedy. The statement indicates, among other things, the committee's support of the BFA to pursue such a censure.

The BFA-M-2-040121 Motion to Censure[9] is slated to be voted on at the BFA'S April 29 meeting. Voting members must be logged into the Zoom meeting in order to vote.

Read more[12] on the April 1 BFA meeting in CU Boulder Today[12].

Get ready to go for Open Enrollment[13]
[14]

The University of Colorado's Open Enrollment begins at 8 a.m. April 19 and ends at 5 p.m. May 7.

This is your chance to keep, waive or enroll in the University of Colorado's medical, dental, vision, life and disability insurance as well as savings plans. Explore what's changing with CU Health Plans for the 2021-22 plan-year.

There are four key changes to CU Health Plan offerings:
CU Health Plan – Kaiser is consolidating into a single statewide network. Out-of-pocket maximums will increase for certain medical plans. All CU dental plans will provide fluoride treatments twice a year for patients of all ages. Faculty and staff will use digital insurance ID cards, instead of paper cards, to access care.

Kaiser moves to a single statewide network

CU Health Plan – Kaiser is moving from three regional coverage areas to a single statewide network, expanding care options for members.

In the past year, Kaiser expanded its local network and added new features:
HealthONE Medical Center of Aurora has joined the Kaiser network to provide in-network emergency care. This addition also includes all HealthONE emergency rooms in the Denver area. UCHealth Urgent Care Longmont joined Kaiser's network, providing care to adult and pediatric patients in Longmont seven days a week. Kaiser established a contract with DispatchHealth to offer in-home or in-office urgent care in the Colorado Springs and Denver regions. They will be exploring opportunities to expand this service along the Front Range.

Dental plans expand fluoride treatments

All dental plans will offer twice yearly fluoride treatments for patients of all ages. Previously, these treatments were only available to youth age 17 and under.

During dental visits after July 1, be sure to note this element of your coverage. Some dental practices will omit fluoride treatments for those over age 17, as it is not an industry standard.

Increase to maximum out-of-pocket payment

Out-of-pocket maximums for CU Health Plans – Extended, Exclusive and Kaiser will increase from $8,150 to $8,550 for individuals and $16,300 to $17,100 for families (2+ people).

Digital ID cards introduced

CU faculty and staff will no longer be issued paper ID cards. Instead, you'll have options to use a digital ID card or download and print a paper copy.

At this time, the switch to digital will only apply to enrollees who change plans or newly enroll in plans. If you keep our current plans, you current ID card will not change.

Visit our Digital Delivery page for details.[15]

Like your plans? It's easy to stick to your current course

If you would like to keep the same benefit choices, no action is required. You will be automatically re-enrolled. There's one exception: If you have a Health Care Flexible Spending Account and a Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, **you must re-enroll** for plan year 2021-2022.

Considering a change in direction? Let us be your guide

Navigating health insurance options can be disorienting, and the past year has only emphasized the necessity of health coverage that meets you and your family's needs. Employee Services is here to provide the information you need to chart the best course.

Starting April 19, you can visit our Virtual Sessions and Fair to learn more about your benefits with courses, videos, interactive tools and more. We'll also host webinars with plan vendors so you can learn more, ask questions and be entered in a drawing to win prizes such as Bose headphones, a FitBit Versa and many more.

There's no need to wait to start exploring. Take the Basics of CU Health Plans and Pretax Savings Course or register for upcoming webinars by visiting the Open Enrollment website[16].

'Coded Bias' screening set for April 16[17]
[18]

The Faculty Council LGBTQ+ Committee, in collaboration with the council's CREE (Committee on Racial and Ethnic Equity) and Women's committees, are hosting a virtual screening of acclaimed documentary "Coded Bias."[19]

The April 16 event[20] features a 6 p.m. screening of the film via a virtual watch page followed by a 7:30 p.m. panel discussion and Q&A via Zoom. Panelists are:
Shalini Kantayya, filmmaker Debbie Carter, M.D., associate professor, Department of Psychiatry, CU Anschutz Kandrea Wade, Ph.D. student, Information Science, CU Boulder Morgan Klaus Scheuerman, Ph.D. student, Information Science, CU Boulder
"Coded Bias"[21] explores the fallout of MIT Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini´s startling discovery that facial recognition does not see dark-skinned faces and women accurately, and her journey to push for the first legislation in the U.S. to govern against bias in the algorithms that affect everyone.

The free event is open to all, but space is limited. Register here[22].

Questions? Email facultycouncil@cu.edu[23]

President's Fund for the Humanities: Submission deadline extended[24]
[25]

The CU Office of Academic Affairs has extended the deadline for submissions for the President's Fund for the Humanities[26] to April 19.

Projects selected for funding in the spring are restricted to a maximum award of $5,000.

The President's Fund for the Humanities was established to promote and enhance the humanities on and across campuses and in the wider community, and to preserve a balance in the university's programs of education and research by giving special attention to the humanities.
Eligibility: Projects must be authored by a full-time faculty member with the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, senior instructor or instructor. **Deadline extension:** 5 p.m. Monday, April 19
Learn more about the President's Fund for the Humanities[26].

Please direct inquiries to AcademicAffairs@cu.edu[27].

New online network connects and supports Colorado's rural entrepreneurs [28]

$30,000 awarded to CU's top startups at New Venture Challenge Specialty Prize Nights [29]

Campus, city leaders celebrate Clyde Way with ribbon-cutting: 'A true win-win' [30]

CU Denver engages in new state financing strategy to respond to Colorado's funding landscape[31]

Anxiety among fathers is higher than recently reported, new study suggests[32]

Q&A: Lilia Cervantes, M.D.[33]

Kennedy, Meehan to discuss 'Bipartisanship (and Friendship) Happen!' in virtual event[34]

Demmig-Adams wins 2021 Hazel Barnes Prize [35]

Ginde leads effort to reach and treat Coloradans with COVID-19[36]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-nolbert-d-chavez[2]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chavez_top.jpg[3]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chavez_01.jpg[4]

https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chavez_04.jpg[5]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chavez_03.jpg[6]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chavez_02.jpg[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-leaders-critical-president-s-leadership-dei-shared-governance[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/bfa_top.jpg[9]
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mailto:bfa@colorado.edu?subject=Motion%20to%20Censure[11] https://www.cu.edu/doc/fc-reprimand-final2pdf[12] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2021/04/01/boulder-faculty-assembly-introduces-censure-motion-against-cu-president-mark-kennedy[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/get-ready-go-open-enrollment[14]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/oe_top_1.jpg[15] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/digital-delivery[16] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment[17]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/coded-bias-screening-set-april-16[18]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/coded-bias_feat.jpg[19] https://www.codedbias.com/[20]
https://www.cu.edu/faculty-council/committees/lgbtq/2021-lgbtq-virtual-film-screening[21]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZl55PsfZJQ&t=1s[22] https://cvent.me/klxBbQ[23]
mailto:facultycouncil@cu.edu[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/president-s-fund-humanities-submission-deadline-extended[25] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/pfh_top.jpg[26] http://www.cu.edu/office-academic-affairs/presidents-fund-humanities[27] mailto:AcademicAffairs@cu.edu[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-online-network-connects-and-supports-colorado-s-rural-entrepreneurs[29]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/30000-awarded-cu-s-top-startups-new-venture-challenge-specialty-prize-nights[30]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/campus-city-leaders-celebrate-clyde-way-ribbon-cutting-true-win-win[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-engages-new-state-financing-strategy-respond-colorado-s-funding-landscape[32]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/anxiety-among-fathers-higher-recently-reported-new-study-suggests[33]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/qa-lilia-cervantes-md[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/kennedy-meehan-discuss-bipartisanship-and-friendship-happen-virtual-event[35] https://connections.cu.edu/people/demmig-adams-wins-2021-hazel-barnes-prize[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/ginde-leads-effort-reach-and-treat-coloradans-covid-19