Five questions for Chance Hill[1]
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Regent Chance Hill's pursuit of education led him to Dartmouth College, Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and the University of Michigan's Law School. A call to service pulled him from his Southern California roots to Asia and the Middle East, the latter the locale for a deployment during six years in the U.S. Navy, as well as for work as an officer and analyst with the CIA.

His education now serves him in his career as an attorney in Colorado Springs, where he's an associate with the Denver-based law firm Sherman & Howard LLC. The call to service has led to the University of Colorado Board of Regents. After winning election last November, he began his six-year term in January. A Republican, he represents the 5th Congressional District.

Hill enjoys playing sports, including soccer, and follows the news closely: "I'm a big political junkie, current events junkie," he said.

He'll also be following another favorite in the coming season. "I'm a big college football fan, so I'm very excited to go up to Boulder this fall," Hill said. "I'll be rooting for Coach Mel Tucker, who has a great resume, and the Buffs. If they have a strong season, it would be great for the university."

1. You served several years in the Navy and CIA. What aspects of that work were most satisfying and most challenging?
[4]

I really enjoyed being in a context where you're so directly and obviously serving the country. You get that at both. I also really liked the travel opportunities at both. I was in the Navy first – there are very few jobs right out of college where you get can get that level of leadership and management experience. It was good learning how to be a better leader as an officer: You do some things right, and you make some mistakes. In some respects, the most adult I ever felt was when I was 26 and had dozens of young sailors and marines under my command. It was a 24/7 job.

It was challenging having to deal with the frustrations of operating in a large bureaucracy. It can be challenging in the CU system, too, frankly.

Both in the Navy and CIA, sometimes you're operating in austere, dangerous environments. I was working on providing intelligence to the decision makers and operators. It was important we get the information right; if it's wrong – for example, bad target coordinates in an operation with an F-18 squadron – innocent people could die.

2. Since becoming a regent in January, what have you learned about the University of Colorado that you didn't know before you were elected to the board?

Intellectually, I understood that the CU system is a vast, complex, bureaucratic enterprise. I could spend years just learning certain details of one program on any campus. It's a big task. And I knew that would be the case, but it's harder to fully appreciate that reality until you're in the job.

3. You took the lead in initiating a letter that is going out to all new CU freshmen next week. It affirms the university's commitment to freedom of speech and academic freedom. How did you come to feel so strongly about the need for this?
[5]

President Emeritus Bruce Benson talked for years about the importance of the university teaching students how to think, not what to think. Part of that mission is to develop critical thinking skills in students. That experience is critical to the mission of higher learning. But it's hard to do that if your culture doesn't sincerely value free speech. It's really important.

I think the CU system is actually ahead of most public university systems in this respect. But that doesn't mean we don't have work to do. We should remain mindful of the importance of this topic.

Besides the letter going out this fall, there are other things we've done this year that are relevant to that topic. We've worked on the development of civics curriculum and the permanent endowment of two conservative thought and policy chairs at CU Boulder's Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization. We've also changed policy to enhance the First Amendment freedoms of religion and association on all four campuses.

4. You took part in the Board of Regents' summer retreat, where those in attendance were encouraged to wear a favorite T-shirt. What was yours, and what was your major takeaway from the meeting?
[6]

My major takeaway was that Mark Kennedy is the right person for the CU president job. He's a very intelligent, disciplined individual. He was already showing his skills as a leader during that retreat.

I wore a T-shirt that says "DD-214 Alumni," which goes back to the military theme. When you get out of the military, that's the name of the form you fill out. I used that T-shirt to impart my experience in the military. My dad happened to give it to me. He had been in the military, too: He volunteered as a Marine in Vietnam and served in the Tet Offensive and the Battle of Hue.

5. As a regent, what's your view of interacting with faculty and staff members across the CU system?
[7]

I think it's important that all of the various layers interact with each other routinely, particularly in the context of shared governance. As a new regent, there's so much information to learn. I'm always happy to meet with individuals. There is seldom a week that goes by in which I'm not meeting with either a faculty member or staff member because I reached out to them or them to me. In some cases they want to explain certain things; sometimes they agree with me, and sometimes they disagree.

In my mind, an important role for the regent is to be an ambassador beyond the college campus itself, so that the state's residents, the taxpayers, understand all the great things happening in one of their public university systems. It's a challenge in this state, where 60-something percent of residents are transplants. A lot of folks wrongfully think, "Why should I care about the CU system?" My response is, "I didn't go to CU. But the CU system, given its economic impact alone, is hugely important to the lifeblood of the state. We're also helping to train and shape our future workforce and citizenry." I'm always thinking about how to sell to the public a lot of the positive developments happening on the campuses. We don't get a lot of state funding, although we appreciate the amount we do receive. It's important we have the support of the taxpayers even if they feel they have no direct connection to CU.

CU on the Air podcast catches up with CU's 23rd president – what's ahead? [8]

Piket-May named CU's Timmerhaus Teaching Ambassador[9]
[10]

A University of Colorado Boulder engineering professor has been named CU's latest Timmerhaus Teaching Ambassador, charged with promoting education – in classrooms and beyond – for students at all scholastic levels across the state.

Melinda Piket-May, Ph.D., an associate professor of electrical, computer and energy engineering, teaches undergraduate engineering design focused on teamwork and real-world experiences with clients. She has long been

involved in K-12 STEM education. Her undergraduate and graduate research and teaching programs include engineering education, assistive technology design, computational electromagnetics and signal integrity.

During the two-year appointment, CU's Timmerhaus Teaching Ambassador[11] serves as an advocate for K-12 and higher education, for scholarly approaches to teaching and learning, and for establishing environments that promote access and success from all sectors of the diverse population in Colorado and beyond. The ambassador leads presentations and workshops about education and learning for audiences including state lawmakers, the CU Board of Regents, educators, the media and the general public.

The Timmerhaus Teaching Ambassador award honors the memory of professor Klaus Timmerhaus, a member of the faculty of chemical and biological engineering at CU Boulder from 1953 until his retirement in 1995. Timmerhaus received many honors, including being named to the National Academy of Engineering and being selected to the first group of President's Teaching Scholars at CU. An active and enthusiastic advocate of teaching, Timmerhaus provided a bequest to support designated faculty members in promoting discussion of education throughout Colorado.

Faculty from across the four-campus CU system are eligible for the ambassadorship, which includes a $25,000 award per year for up to two years.

"I am honored to be recognized for my teaching and research and humbled by the work of Klaus Timmerhaus throughout his life," Piket-May said. "If I could create a perfect job for myself that drew on all my previous experiences, used my aggregate knowledge and sparked a passion in me, the work required for the Timmerhaus Ambassadorship Award is that job."

Piket-May said she'll travel across the state to encourage and help people – children, young adults, their families, their teachers and administrators, legislators – understand the importance of education in the classroom and education from experience outside the classroom.

Piket-May joined the department of Electrical, Computer and Energy Engineering in 1993. She has served as interim associate vice chancellor of research, and is active in faculty governance. Among her past leadership roles are president of the Pac-12 Academic Leadership Coalition, chair of the CU system Faculty Council, chair of the Boulder Faculty Assembly and vice chair of the Colorado Faculty Advisory Committee (CFAC). She also has been director of the Academic Management Institute for the state of Colorado universities and colleges.

"Young adults will be entering a world very different from the one I grew up in. There are turbulent times and challenges ahead with respect to post-secondary education," Piket-May said. "My hope is that promoting the importance of post-secondary education and the importance of education as a lifelong learning process will provide people with a robust ability to address the challenges that they will encounter throughout their lives."

Piket-May follows past Timmerhaus Ambassadors Margarita Bianco, Ed.D., of CU Denver, and Noah Finkelstein, Ph.D., of CU Boulder.

To inquire about a Timmerhaus Ambassador presentation or workshop, offered at no cost, please contact Melinda Piket-May at TimmerhausAmbassador@cu.edu[12].

Pre-planning for strategic planning process underway[13]

The foundation for CU's strategic planning process, which will engage the university community over the next year, is being set. Pre-planning, listening and preparation for the effort have been underway since early July, when Mark Kennedy assumed his position as CU president.

"The University of Colorado has risen to the ranks of the nation's top university systems due to its long track record of adapting to an ever-changing economic and social landscape," Kennedy said. "Yet demand for bachelor's and

graduate degrees is expected to outpace supply as our world moves toward the fourth industrial revolution, a fusion of technologies that blurs the lines between the physical, biological and digital spheres, fundamentally changing how we live, work and relate.

“To be a leader in that change, we must focus our energies, efforts and resources,” he said. “The strategic plan will be the vehicle that allows us to do so.”

Kennedy appointed co-chairs to guide the effort, Sharon Matusik, dean of the Leeds School of Business at CU Boulder, and Todd Saliman, system vice president for finance and chief financial officer. A steering committee comprises the four campus chancellors. The project manager will be Angelique Foster, assistant vice president of strategic initiatives.

The planning process has several objectives that emerged from the Board of Regents summer retreat: to address the challenges of the future; to be collaborative, with input from across the university community; to be data driven; and to be actionable and implementable. The effort also reviewed campus strategic plans for commonalities and alignment.

Initial conversations with regents, chancellors, shared governance groups and others are taking place, and more will happen in the coming weeks and months.

The goal is to develop a framework for the planning process to present to the Board of Regents at its meeting in mid-September. After further input and discussion, the process is expected to begin in earnest later in the fall.

Related, CU will engage external consulting firms in the coming weeks to address two areas that are expected to overlap with the strategic plan. The first will assess CU’s enterprise-wide technology landscape. It will look at the university’s major applications, data, infrastructure and processes and recommend opportunities to improve the university’s technology approach now and in the future. Technology enablement is expected to underpin and advance many elements of the strategic plan, both as it relates to student success and to university systems.

The second will deal with online education. It aims to gauge CU’s current capabilities, review national and regional markets, assess the competitive environment, and articulate successful operating structures.

Changing focus for the CU Advocates program[14]

The CU Advocates program in the Office of the President will have a change in focus and reporting structure that will place a greater emphasis on legislative advocacy, while a new office of engagement will expand CU’s statewide reach.

The Advocates program, initiated by former CU President Bruce Benson eight years ago, is a nearly 5,000-member network of people across Colorado and around the world. They attend events, get educational information about CU’s successes and challenges, and are sometimes called upon to contact legislators. The program has been housed in University Relations in the Office of the President since its inception. It will move to the Office of Government Relations, where it will become a resource for CU’s efforts to engage local, state and federal elected officials.

The move is part of a larger effort aimed at boosting legislative efforts and deepening connections around Colorado and beyond. University Relations is in the process of hiring a person to lead a newly created Office of Engagement, which will be charged with significantly expanding CU’s outreach to communities across Colorado, with an added emphasis on fostering connections with diverse communities. CU President Mark Kennedy directed that the restructuring take place within existing budgets. The Offices of Government Relations and University Relations have eliminated positions as a result.

In a letter to CU Advocates, Vice President for Communication Ken McConnellogue wrote, “We expect outcomes of the new structure to be consistent, sustainable relationships around Colorado and beyond (particularly with diverse communities), stronger legislative relations, enhanced perceptions about public higher education, student recruitment,

increased possibilities for public-private partnerships, and a better understanding of state needs."

CU Advocates will remain important to the university's external relations efforts, he wrote.

"We hope you will continue your work supporting CU. We will still provide you with pertinent information about the university, its success, challenges and needs. We will look for effective ways you can help advance CU, particularly with local, state and federal elected officials."

Government Relations and University Relations staff are working on a transition plan to map out how the increased emphasis on grassroots legislative advocacy will function, as well as what aspects of the current CU Advocates program will remain.

New Oracle contract to save CU nearly $15 million over 10 years[15]
[16]

The University of Colorado will save nearly $15 million over the next decade because of a new Oracle contract negotiated by University Information Services (UIS) and several other system administration teams.

The projected savings came about after CU advocated for a new higher education pricing model. Oracle responded by offering a model that replaces an annual per-user license pricing with a more predictable university-wide price.

"We have incredible people across CU, supporting our world-class educational and research institutions while driving efficiencies," said Scott Munson, associate vice president and chief information officer for UIS. "This is one of those opportunities where many came together to make a positive impact on CU both today and well into the future."

Oracle database and infrastructure technologies power services used by every CU student, faculty and staff member. For students, this encompasses services like applying to CU, selecting their schedules and ensuring they take the right classes to graduate. For faculty, it includes entering grades, applying for grants, monitoring elements of sponsored research and more. For staff and faculty, Oracle services facilitate being hired to the university, receiving benefits and getting paid on time.

Every spring, Oracle requires an annual verification process for all CU campuses to confirm the number of students, faculty and staff. As CU continues to grow, the university is expected to expand its licenses and support, which cost more each year.

In late 2016, UIS requested a more predictable model from Oracle in contrast to the annual process, which was triggering large budget requests every few years depending on CU's growth. At the time, Oracle did not have a model in place for higher education but promised to assess options. In 2018, Oracle told UIS they were offering a new model for selected universities, which could apply to CU.

To determine if the new model would work for CU, UIS collaborated with Budget and Finance, Legal and Procurement departments from system administration. Over the past three years, hundreds of hours have gone into making this contract a reality.

The negotiation had two main outcomes:

A predictable budget model for the software: The previous Oracle Technology contract, which focused on database technologies across CU, was unpredictable in terms of budget impact. Every few years, CU had negotiated a new contract with Oracle using prior budget models but with great difficulty and uncertainty into the final cost. The new contract gives CU a predictable budget model for the university-wide software solutions.

Saves money for CU: The budget modeling showed CU would save or avoid future costs of nearly $15 million over a

10-year period, which is a direct benefit to maintaining an affordable education, aligning with the CU Board of Regents' vision.

The new contract using Oracle's predictable budget model drives major cost savings, helping to ensure an education at CU stays affordable. Oracle now has two customers using this new model: CU and the University of Texas system.

Tenure list: August 2019[17]

The CU Board of Regents on Aug. 9 approved four appointments of tenure.

CU Boulder - Appointments with tenure[18]

Effective Aug. 19, 2019, unless otherwise noted.
Francois Barthelat, Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering and Applied Science Ryan Gardner, College of Music Clare Wang, Leeds School of Business Timothy Whitehead, Chemical and Biological Engineering, College of Engineering and Applied Science, effective Aug. 9, 2019

TCP BuffOvrFlows win first Wicked6 eSports Cyber Competition[19]

Let ALTEC guide your language learning adventure[20]

Over 100 local teachers participate in the UCCS STEM Days of Summer Conference [21]

Robots compete in DARPA Tunnel Circuit with CU Denver Communication system[22]

Hitting the streets in hepatitis A battle [23]

Fox named CU Boulder executive vice chancellor and COO[24]

CU Connections resumes weekly publication[25]

With today's issue, CU Connections resumes its regular weekly publication schedule for the 2019-20 academic year.

A new edition appears each Thursday morning throughout the year. For part of the summer, new editions appear every other week.

Connections will not publish new issues on Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving), Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, 2020.

Deadline for submissions is noon Friday before each Thursday's publication.

Questions: Contact Connections editor Jay Dedrick, jay.dedrick@cu.edu[26], 303-860-5707.

Turetsky to become new INSTAAR director [27]

Keasley, Hayworth to be honored for contributions to the arts [28]

Operational excellence earns Greenfield Employee of the Quarter[29]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-chance-hill[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/hill_top.jpg[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/hill_01.jpg[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/hill_03.jpg[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/hill_05.jpg[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/hill_04.jpg[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/hill_02.jpg[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-air-podcast-catches-cu-s-23rd-president-what-s-ahead[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/piket-may-named-cu-s-timmerhaus-teaching-ambassador[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/picket-may_01.jpg[11] http://www.cu.edu/ptsp/timmerhaus[12] mailto:TimmerhausAmbassador@cu.edu[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/pre-planning-strategic-planning-process-underway[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/changing-focus-cu-advocates-program[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-oracle-contract-save-cu-nearly-15-million-over-10-years[16] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/oracle_01.jpg[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tenure-list-august-2019[18] http://go.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BE7TR978976F[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tcp-buffovrflows-win-first-wicked6-esports-cyber-competition[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/let-altec-guide-your-language-learning-adventure[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/over-100-local-teachers-participate-uccs-stem-days-summer-conference[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/robots-compete-darpa-tunnel-circuit-cu-denver-communication-system[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/hitting-streets-hepatitis-battle[24] https://connections.cu.edu/people/fox-named-cu-boulder-executive-vice-chancellor-and-coo[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-connections-resumes-weekly-publication-3[26] mailto:jay.dedrick@cu.edu[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/turetsky-become-new-instaar-director[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/keasley-hayworth-be-honored-contributions-arts[29] https://connections.cu.edu/people/operational-excellence-earns-greenfield-employee-quarter