Board of Regents will meet today to vote on presidential finalist[1]

The CU Board of Regents is expected to vote on Mark R. Kennedy[2], finalist for CU president, during a special meeting at 1 p.m. today in Krugman Hall, Research 2 Building[3], at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

The agenda[4] indicates that the board will begin by convening in executive session, which is not open to the public. At 2 p.m., during the public portion of the meeting, Chair Sue Sharkey is scheduled to provide an update on the presidential search process.

Public comment follows, as well as comments from shared governance leaders: Nancy Moore, Staff Council chair; Joanne Addison, Faculty Council chair; and Sierra Brown, Intercampus Student Forum chair.

Board members are expected to make comments before voting on Kennedy, who was named finalist with a 9-0 board vote.

The public meeting will be livestreamed here.[5]

Meeting attendees are advised that there will be additional rules for prohibited items, listed here[6]. Please arrive early and expect airport-like security screening. If you must bring a bag, clear bags are the only types allowed inside Krugman Hall. Backpacks, food and drinks are among the prohibited items.

CU Connections[7] will be updated with coverage of the meeting later today.

Engaging the community in land conservation and preservation, CU Boulder professor honored with Chase Faculty Community Service Award[8]
[9]

A University of Colorado Boulder professor's passion for smart land management and community engagement have earned him recognition as the 2019 Chase Faculty Community Service Award[10] winner.

Timothy Seastedt.[11] Ph.D., is an INSTAAR (Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research) fellow and professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at CU Boulder.

The Chase Faculty Community Service Award is presented annually to a full-time CU faculty member who provides exceptional service to the community. An advisory council recommends an award-winner to CU President Bruce D. Benson, who bestows the honor, which includes a $10,000 grant sponsored by an endowment from JPMorgan Chase through the CU Foundation.

Seastedt will be formally recognized for his Chase Award during a reception[12] on May 8 at CU Boulder.

At CU since 1991, Seastedt leads outreach activities that engage youth from Front Range communities, CU students, and stakeholders in active conservation and restoration efforts. This work enhances the resilience of the Front Range as it responds to climate change and other environmental drivers. Seastedt is a frequent partner of Wildlands Restoration Volunteers[13], Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks[14], and the U.S. Forest Service in science outreach to K-12 students in the Front Range and beyond.

A typical outreach activity in 2018 found Seastedt engaged in a program for a group of middle- and high-school students working on wildland restoration projects through Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. Seastedt and CU graduate students demonstrated the conservation and ecosystem service values of activities that mitigate threats to the sustainability of the Front Range related to environmental and climate change, and showed how restoring a landscape can benefit human well-being.

Seastedt hopes to build on that activity this spring by sponsoring youth leadership training that will enable 10 high school juniors and seniors to be crew leaders of a riparian restoration project carried out by Wildlands Restoration Volunteers. Emphasizing diversity, the project offers student leaders experiential learning, mentorship, skills and resources as they direct groups of fellow students through restoring a floodplain. If the project proceeds as planned, it will restore a section of floodplain on public lands damaged by the 2013 floods.

“It’s a great honor to be given this award. To me it is a message from my colleagues that what we’re doing is important,” Seastedt said. “Our activities with youth and environmental volunteers are something that embodies the ideas of Jane Goodall and others to ‘act local,’ but attempt to do this in a way that doesn’t rearrange deck chairs on the Titanic. The way forward is to conduct projects that mitigate past and current damages from natural and human events and generate a more resilient and sustainable future. We work one-on-one with students and stakeholders and mix science with activities that have both ecological and human well-being benefits.”

The Chase Faculty Community Service Award – established in 1991 with a $100,000 donation – is funded annually by an endowment from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation through the CU Foundation. The endowment provides an annual award of $10,000 to a full-time faculty member at the University of Colorado who has rendered exceptional service in his or her community.

“Dr. Seastedt personifies teaching excellence with a profound commitment to community service,” said Joseph Coleman, Business Banking Market Manager for Chase in Colorado. “His leadership in conservation and restoration projects, combined with his passion for teaching our youth in a stimulating matter that offers valuable educational experiences, will have a long-lasting impact in creating a sustainable, healthy future for many in Colorado. He’s a deserving recipient of the Chase Faculty Community Service Award.”

Crown gift to establish a unique wellness research institute at CU Boulder [15]

UCCS celebrates leaders at Campus Awards Ceremony [16]

‘Campus conscience’: Community says goodbye to diversity chief Allen[17]

Outwitting the KKK: Real ‘BlacKkKlansman’ brings story to campus [18]

President Benson announced as official starter of 2019 BOLDERBoulder[19]

BOLDERBoulder, America’s All-Time Best 10K, this week named CU President Bruce D. Benson the official starter for the 2019 race.

“We are honored to have one of the University of Colorado’s most accomplished presidents as this year’s official starter,” said Cliff Bosley, BolderBOULDER race director. “The race has a rich history with CU and our relationship with Bruce and the university is part of the magic of the BOLDERBoulder.”

In 1981, then-CU President Arnold Weber and CU Boulder Athletic Director Eddie Crowder approached race founder Steve Bosley about moving the BOLDERBoulder finish line to the University of Colorado's Folsom Field. Since 1981, more than 1.3 million participants of the race have finished in the stadium, fulfilling Weber's vision that the race would provide runners and spectators exposure to CU and showcase the state's flagship university in a way that otherwise would not be possible.

"Almost 40 years since that first meeting with the University of Colorado, it is our honor to have Bruce Benson, the president of the University of Colorado, to serve as the official starter," said race founder Steve Bosley, also a Regent Emeritus. "It is appropriate that the race is being started by another president whose charge is to lead this university and this legacy of community, dedication and service to and for the University of Colorado."

Benson joins an esteemed group of race official starters over the years including Olympic Gold Medalist Frank Shorter, Denver Broncos wide receiver Ed McCaffery, famed columnist Rick Reilly and other CU legends including Tad Boyle, Mike Bohn, Mark Johnson and Gary Barnett.

"I very much appreciate being selected for this prestigious honor," Benson said. "The BOLDERBoulder and CU have had a wonderful partnership over the years and I welcome the opportunity to deepen those ties. I look forward to spending Memorial Day with tens of thousands of people who have made the race and the university part of their holiday tradition."

As one of the longest-serving presidents in the university's history, Benson has enhanced CU's standing as one of the nation's leading public universities, advancing the economy, health and culture of Colorado and beyond. During his tenure, CU's researching funding has reached record levels and it has seen its best 10 fundraising years. He has announced he will retire from CU in July.

What is FIRES and how are CU Anschutz experts working to unravel the mystery? [20]

Kalisman, Yonemoto named American Council of Learned Societies fellows [21]

Recipients of 2019 Research & Innovation Seed Grants totaling $1.2 million announced [22]

CU Denver | Anschutz staff members recognized for years of service[23]

Growing Up Boulder collaborates with 700 elementary students on city map[24]

Five questions for Fernando Rosario-Ortiz[25]

[26]

Like many of his generation, Fernando Rosario-Ortiz says, he realized that “a significant amount of environmental damage has been done, and with that as a constant reminder, I (understood) that we have to take care of the environment.”

He was drawn to the study of environmental chemistry, especially in the context of water treatment and the natural systems that affect the resource on which the planet and its inhabitants rely.

“It has clear applications for the way cities treat their water (for consumption) and the way we must deal with contaminants, and I found that to be fascinating.”

Rosario-Ortiz, associate professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder, researches problems that some natural processes and events, such as wildfires, often create for water treatment facilities.

He currently serves as associate director of the Environmental Engineering (EVEN) Program, but on July 1, he will take the helm of the program. He has earned multiple honors, including faculty achievement awards from the university and the College of Engineering. A native of Puerto Rico, Rosario-Ortiz returned to his home after Hurricane Maria to assess water quality.

1. How did you choose this career path?

I went to grad school to become an atmospheric chemist and knew that I wanted to work in an area related to environmental issues, closer to the application side and less from a purely theoretical component.

When I started grad school, I realized right away that I wanted to do something different, and I learned about the environmental science and engineering program at University of California Los Angeles. It had a better combination of science and engineering, but also included the business side and an environmental law component, so I decided to pursue that in anticipation of my doctoral degree. Within that, I settled on the topic of water treatment and environmental chemistry.

2. After Hurricane Maria struck Puerto Rico, you found elevated levels of lead in the water supply. Is testing and analysis complete?

I’m Puerto Rican and my whole family is there. When the hurricane happened, there were many concerns for a number of reasons, but being a water scientist, I realized it was a good opportunity for me to go to the National Science Foundation and request funding to do an assessment of water quality in the aftermath of the hurricane.

The original intent of the project was to collect water samples. The situation was pretty bad there, with people who didn’t have access to potable water going to streams to collect water. The intent was more for us to understand potential contamination sources, both chemical and biological. What we were not looking for was lead.

We collected samples for water quality, and when we got the results back, we saw that some of the lead levels were elevated. The problem was we were collecting samples from homes, but we were using connections from outside the houses. According to EPA regulations on lead, that is not the right sampling point, and so what we did was go back to Puerto Rico a handful of times and expand the sampling to ascertain whether the lead levels collected in the taps, whether from the kitchens or the bathrooms, might be of concern to the public,

My main motivation is to try to help my community recover and help with water quality if I can. There obviously are many infrastructure challenges there, but if we find high lead levels in potable water sources, that is a big concern as well.

3. How do wildfires affect water quality and what has your research found?

After a wildfire, slopes might be destabilized, and if you have a rain event, you can have more sediments being mobilized. Sediments can cause real problems to water treatment facility infrastructure, but also concerns for the drinking water.

On the water-quality side, you have contaminants, such as organic carbon or nutrients, that are released into the water. Of course, some of these are not quite contaminants because they always are present in the water, but at higher levels, they can impact the way we need to treat water. If you have a drinking water facility and have a lot of ash coming down, you have to remove that ash from the water before supplying it to the customer. That becomes an operational issue that will impact the capacity of that drinking water facility to produce potable water.

There are also issues with the disinfection byproducts that might be a potential health concern. Finally, there are taste concerns. Consumers like their water to smell and taste a certain way, and sometimes, with wildfires, the water can smell smoky. While it is not a health concern, it is a problem of public perception.

My work mostly focuses on organic compounds from natural origin, but in cases such as in California, other contaminants have been found. If property – homes – are impacted by the wildfire, other contaminants actually can enter the water supply and that is a concern.

4. Two other areas of your research are advanced oxidation processes and environmental photochemistry for water treatment. What are these and how do they work?

Essentially, the larger area of my research would be environmental chemistry, and that involves chemical processes and environment systems. The photochemistry work is essentially studying sunlight-driven reactions in surface waters and how those reactions can actually degrade contaminants of concern.

We spend a lot of time studying different chemical pathways so that we can better understand how sunlight interacts with different constituents and what kind of reactive species are formed and what kinds of degradation of organic contaminants you can expect out of that. With some products, retention ponds for developing communities, for example, there is the potential for the activation of pathogens just because the pond is exposed to sunlight. We also research the wastewater stream and the kind of photochemical reactions that occur so that we can ascertain the impact of contaminant degradation.

For the oxidation process, we look at how different chemicals are used in drinking water treatment or wastewater treatment, for that matter. We look at the composition of ozone, for instance, which is used as a disinfectant. We look at the whole chemistry with the ultimate goal of better understanding how technologies could be applied for drinking and wastewater treatment.

There are widespread applications of wastewater reuse for nonpotable use, but there also is movement into potable applications. With climate change and dwindling water resources, it becomes a real alternative for systems that may be under water stress and population growth

For indirect potable reuse, you take wastewater and treat it to a pretty high degree, and then you have an environmental buffer, such as an aquifer. The water gets drawn out of that environmental buffer and it is used partially as a source water. That system has been used in California and elsewhere.

There also is a movement toward eliminating the environmental buffer, which would be direct potable reuse. However, there are some concerns with that because you want to make sure that there are multiple levels of protection against potential pathogens or contaminants in the water. Ultimately the research will go that way, and there already are some examples of that type of application in the world.

5. You will take the helm of the EVEN program July 1. What are your goals going into the position?

It is a program that is very successful – one of the highly ranked programs in the College of Engineering. One of my goals is to continue the upward trajectory when it comes to growing the program and also working on some specific aspects, such as improving the sense of community between students and faculty and staff. I want to bring in additional

faculty, especially to expand the diversity of the campus, which is an issue at this institution.

Essentially, we want to attract the best students that we can that represent the diversity of the state and make sure we continue to provide a service to the community by graduating students that can perform their jobs in the best way they can.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/board-regents-will-meet-today-vote-presidential-finalist[2] https://www.cu.edu/presidential-search/[3] https://www.cuanschutz.edu/about/cu-anschutz-map[4] https://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9BXNXX5C8217https://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9BXNXX5C8217[5] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iefgCkM2Gwg[6] https://www.cuanschutztoday.org/board-of-regents-to-host-a-special-board-meeting-at-cu-anschutz/?utm_source=CUAT-Wed-May-1-2019&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=CUAnschutzToday&utm_content=Board-of-Regents-to-hold-Special-Board-Meeting[7] https://connections.cu.edu/[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/engaging-community-land-conservation-and-preservation-cu-boulder-professor-honored-chase[9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chase_01.jpg[10] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/recognitions/chase-faculty-community-service-award[11] http://instaar.colorado.edu/people/tim-seastedt[12] https://web.cvent.com/event/12a81879-0918-4b0a-8635-e29d6273c8d3/summary[13] http://www.wlrv.org/[14] https://bouldercolorado.gov/osmp[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/crown-gift-establish-unique-wellness-research-institute-cu-boulder[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-celebrates-leaders-campus-awards-ceremony[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/campus-conscience-community-says-goodbye-diversity-chief-allen[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/outwitting-kkk-real-blackkklansman-brings-story-campus[19] https://connections.cu.edu/people/president-benson-announced-official-starter-2019-bolderboulder[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/what-fires-and-how-are-cu-anschutz-experts-working-unravel-mystery[21] https://connections.cu.edu/people/kalisman-yonemoto-named-american-council-learned-societies-fellows[22] https://connections.cu.edu/people/recipients-2019-research-innovation-seed-grants-totaling-12-million-announced[23] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-denver-l-anschutz-staff-members-recognized-years-service[24] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/growing-boulder-collaborates-700-elementary-students-city-map[25] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-fernando-rosario-ortiz[26] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/rosario-ortiz.jpg