

[Regents vote to hold tuition, compensation flat](#)[1]

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The Board of Regents on Tuesday voted to hold tuition flat for resident undergraduates across the system, as well as for most nonresident students, as campuses look toward fall enrollment with uncertainty.

A few students – nonresident nursing students at CU Anschutz – will see slight increases in tuition (3%) and mandatory fees (2.1%).

The board also voted in favor of no compensation increases for faculty and staff, and approved some student fee changes as previously reviewed by regents earlier this year.

Those choices now help CU leadership add some clarity to budgeting for the 2020-21 fiscal year, though much remains unknown leading up to the Board of Regents' budget vote June 18. Uncertainty over fall enrollment figures will remain for a while.

"We expect state budget cuts to be quite significant when it comes to K-12 and higher education," said Todd Saliman, vice president of budget and finance and chief financial officer, who [presented details](#)[3] on the tuition, fee and compensation recommendations during the meeting, held via Zoom and livestreamed. A video recording of the meeting is [posted here](#)[4].

Later Tuesday, the legislative Joint Budget Committee (JBC) voted to cut 58% of general fund support for higher education across the state. That figure was much higher than that proposed by JBC staff, no more than a 30% reduction.

Saliman noted Gov. Jared Polis' distribution of \$450 million in federal CARES support to Colorado colleges and universities, with \$127 million of that coming to CU. However, the federal stimulus money is earmarked for responses specifically to COVID-19, and cannot be used to offset state cuts.

The JBC is expected to set the recommended state budget late this week, with the House set to consider it the week of May 25, followed by the Senate the week of June 1. Early that month, the budget will be sent to the governor for action.

CU leaders continue to plan for three budget scenarios in the coming year, reflecting drops in operating funds of either 5%, 10% or 20%. They differ in assumptions about how much teaching and learning will be done in person vs. remotely. Expected drops in fall enrollment, research funding and auxiliary enterprise income remain ongoing financial threats.

The board wasn't unanimous in its support of the budget recommendations.

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The zero tuition increase was approved 8-1; Regent Sue Sharkey said she opposed it because she would have preferred a tuition cut. She also opposed increases to student fees, being joined by Regent Heidi Ganahl in the 7-2 vote.

Regents Ganahl and Sharkey also voted against the compensation proposal, being joined by Regent Chance Hill in the 5-3 vote. Kroll abstained; as a CU Boulder employee, he chooses not to vote on compensation. Sharkey said she objected because while there won't be a merit pool for salary increases, there remains a potential that salary increases could be used as deemed necessary for certain instances of employee retention.

[Regents move quickly to enable vacation leave flexibility for employees](#)[6]

[7]

The Board of Regents on Tuesday moved swiftly to provide more flexibility for employees who have been unable to take vacation due to the coronavirus crisis.

Regent Policy 11.E.1 notes that vacation accrual for full-time university staff and faculty on 12-month appointments may not exceed 44 days on July 1 of every year. As approved, the policy change states that employees who have been unable to take vacation due to the COVID-19 public health emergency may accrue and carry more than 44 days as of vacation leave as of July 1, 2020 through July 1, 2021.

The added flexibility, which took effect Tuesday, is at the discretion of employees' respective executive leadership (president for system administration employees, chancellor for campus employees, or designated delegates).

The policy change will be repealed without further action as of July 1, 2021.

Under ordinary circumstances, advance notice would have been given of such a policy change. The Regents Governance Committee was scheduled to consider it at its May 29 meeting, meaning the full board would not have voted on the matter until its June 18 meeting.

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Regent Jack Kroll said that earlier action by the board would help decision-making for employees who were facing the July 1 deadline for using or losing vacation hours.

As a result, the board first voted to waive the notice of motion, then voted to approve the policy change. The nine-member board's vote was unanimous.

For more detailed information, go to <https://www.cu.edu/regents/rlpreview#tabs-2>[9].

For more detailed information concerning the ongoing review of Regent Laws and Policies, go to <https://www.cu.edu/regents/rlpreview>[10].

[Time-honored Norlin Charge charges on in virtual format](#)[11]

"With hope and faith, I welcome you into the fellowship. I bid you farewell only in the sense that I pray you may fare well. You go forth but not from us. We remain but not severed from you. God go with you and be with you and us." [12]

Since June of 1935, each University of Colorado graduate has heard these words concluding the [Norlin Charge](#)[13] during commencement. The charge was written and first read by CU President George Norlin and is now traditionally read by a regent at every commencement. Yet, like so many circumstances of spring graduation, 2020 was different.

At last week's virtual commencements for CU Colorado Springs, CU Denver and CU Boulder, and tomorrow's CU Anschutz commencement, graduates and their families still witnessed – or will witness – this time-honored tradition.

Introduced by CU President Mark Kennedy, Regents John Carson, R-Highlands Ranch, Irene Griego, D-Denver, and Linda Shoemaker, D-Boulder, recited the charge as a medley, each reading a portion. The medley recognized the three regents because they will leave the board after this year when their six-year terms end.

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The Norlin Charge video was produced through University Relations by Elizabeth Collins, associate vice president, and Jon Arnold, web administrator, with existing photos and videos of past commencements. Campus representatives were key in getting the materials to the team.

It can't replace the feeling of unity and accomplishment of the in-person ceremony, but just as each commencement in its unique way certifies the alumni of the University of Colorado, so does this spring certify the resilience and tenacity of CU's graduates. And like the mission and vision of the university, CU and the Norlin Charge will charge onward.

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[Faculty Council honors exceptional contributors to shared governance](#)[16]

The Faculty Council last week presented its annual awards, honoring two members of the university community.

The governance group's May 14 meeting, held via Zoom, included the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award to Vicki Grove, Ph.D., and the Administrator of the Year Award to Patrick O'Rourke.

The Distinguished Service Award recognizes the service of faculty to CU. It is designed to recognize contributions through participation in faculty governance, particularly through activities in Faculty Council and its committee structures.

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Grove, a senior instructor at CU Boulder in the Russian Program, earned master's and doctorate degrees in Comparative Literature, with an emphasis on 19th-Century Russian literature, at CU Boulder. She was recognized by the council as being "a staunch advocate for faculty and steadfast in upholding principles of shared governance with her multilevel engagement with the CU system Faculty Council and Boulder Faculty Assembly."

The council's resolution stated that Grove "has shown unwavering commitment and made significant contributions to faculty affairs through her involvement with CU's Teaching Quality Framework Initiative and FCQ redesign committee." She was praised for numerous service activities and for "tirelessly work(ing) to realize a community that is inclusive, fair and equal for all its members."

The Administrator of the Year Award recognizes significant contributions to the university, to Faculty Council and/or to shared and faculty governance.

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O'Rourke joined CU in 2005 and served as vice president, university counsel and secretary of the Board of Regents from 2012 until earlier this year, when he joined CU Boulder as interim executive vice chancellor and chief operating officer. At system, he was responsible for coordinating the university's legal affairs and assisting the Board of Regents in its governance role. O'Rourke also teaches as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Colorado School of Law and the Colorado School of Public Health on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

The council lauded O'Rourke's service "with great distinction and professionalism," and said he "has modeled shared governance across the University of Colorado system by cultivating a culture of excellence in service and is an inspiration for collaborative work between administration, Board of Regents and faculty."

Also at last week's Faculty Council meeting:

[Priscilla Rahn](#)[19], candidate for the Board of Regents in the 6th District, joined the meeting for questions and answers. A Highlands Ranch Republican, she's running for the seat held by John Carson, R-Highlands Ranch, who is not seeking reelection. Rahn is a career educator who teaches in Denver Public Schools. Faculty Council Chair Joanne Addison has said the council aims to invite all candidates for regent to take part in a council meeting. The council does not endorse candidates for regent.

[CU Anschutz, CU Boulder faculty among recipients of Boettcher COVID-19 grants](#)[20]

[21]

Two University of Colorado faculty researchers are among the recipients of nearly \$1 million in new Boettcher Foundation grants aimed at fighting COVID-19 and potential future pandemics.

The Boettcher Foundation last month launched the COVID Biomedical Research Innovation Fund, creating a rapid response RFP targeted at the state's leading investigators. On Friday, Boettcher announced six grantees whose awards will average \$165,000 each. The CU recipients are:

[Elena Hsieh, M.D., University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus and Children's Hospital Colorado](#)^[22][Theodore Randolph, Ph.D., University of Colorado Boulder and VitriVax](#)^[23]

The grantees all are leading existing biomedical research efforts around COVID-19, with a collective emphasis on risk factors, treatment, testing and vaccines.

"As a group, the six projects are innovative in how they are researching multiple facets of COVID-19 and its impacts on Coloradans," said Katie Kramer, president and CEO of the Boettcher Foundation. "We are proud to support these efforts at a time when biomedical research is a public health priority for response, treatment and future pandemic prevention."

Upon the fund's announcement, more than 120 grant applications were submitted in 10 days. An initial team of experts determined a list of 39 finalists, six of whom were then chosen as grantees by a review panel of biomedical experts. The other winning proposals are:

[James Crapo, M.D., National Jewish Health and BioMimetix](#)^[24][Kara Mould, M.D., National Jewish Health](#)^[25][Rushika Perera, Ph.D.; Brian Geiss, Ph.D.; David Paterson, Ph.D., Colorado State University](#)^[26][Sue VandeWoude, D.V.M. and Nicole Ehrhart, V.M.D., M.S., Colorado State University](#)^[27]

"Colorado has long been home to incredible innovation, so it's no surprise that we're seeing an effort like this to support research around our state that could help us address this pandemic," said Gov. Jared Polis.

[Click here](#)^[28] for more from the Boettcher Foundation.

[Faculty Council Committee on Racial and Ethnic Equity offers COVID-19 message](#)^[29]

The CU Faculty Council's Committee on Racial and Ethnic Equity (CREE) has teamed with colleagues from other committees to produce a [video message](#)^[30] in support of the campus community during the pandemic. Faculty from across the four CU campuses also speak out against racism and the disparate health impacts of the COVID-19 virus on marginalized communities.

CREE considers concerns of ethnic minority faculty, including:

assessing the cultural climate of the university as it pertains to opportunities for ethnic minority faculty for academic advancement, productivity and appropriate compensation; making recommendations for creating an academic environment that fosters the academic success of both ethnic minority faculty and ethnic minority students; working to assure fairness in the recruitment and retention of ethnic minority faculty and students; developing support networks and recommending policy to address the needs of ethnic minority faculty and students.

[Click here](#)^[31] to learn more about the committee and Faculty Council.

[Coronavirus lays bare inequities in K-12 education](#) ^[32]

[Chancellor Reddy and cabinet to host second Virtual Town Hall today](#)[33]

[Be kind to your mind: Mental Health Awareness Month and the psychological effects of COVID-19](#) [34]

[Faculty selected for Graduate School's outstanding 2019-20 mentor awards](#) [35]

[Clark says goodbye after nine-plus years](#)[36]

[Shay to continue as College of Music dean through December](#)[37]

[Health and safety take top priority in return to campus planning](#) [38]

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