Staff Council continues to gather information on parental leave[1]

The University of Colorado Staff Council committee studying paid parental leave continues to gather data about peer institutions and businesses that offer the benefit.

The information could help inform the possible development of a policy for the university.

CU Regent Heidi Ganahl has offered to help research federal legislation on the topic. Committee members also will discuss with administrators any potential costs of a policy and what resources would be needed to fill positions during employee leaves.

The committee updated the entire council on its efforts during its Nov. 19 meeting at CU Boulder.

Parental leave is just one of the policies of interest to staff members, according to results of the council's working survey which was conducted last year. The council expects to release findings from that survey in December.

In other business at last week's meeting, council members discussed developing a mission statement for the group and an anti-bullying policy drafted by Faculty Council members.

At the council's November meeting, Dan Montez, director of the Office of Policy and Efficiency, will offer guidelines on how council members can best approach policies up for review and provide constructive input about recommended revisions.

Retirement Ready presentation addresses market volatility, rising interest rates[2]
[3]

Market volatility and rising interest rates can be bumps on the road to retirement for many. That's where Retirement Ready can provide guidance.

Retirement Ready: A CU Financial Event, Nov. 6-15, helps CU faculty and staff within five years of retirement map their retirement strategy with help from professionals at Employee Services, TIAA, PERA, Medicare and Social Security.

"Market Volatility and Rising Interest Rates" will be presented at CU Boulder and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Attendees can expect to have a better understanding of how market volatility and the rising of interest rates will affect their investment portfolio, and why it is essential for successful financial planning.

"Being unaware of market volatility, in particular the movement of interest rates and the impact they can have on a pre-retiree or retiree, is a big blind spot," said Brendan Horgan, managing director at Nuveen, a global investment company owned by TIAA.

Market volatility is the rate at which the price of a security increases or decreases for a given set of returns. It can be driven by many factors: geopolitical events, economic shocks, policy uncertainty, asset bubbles and market factors like rising short-term interest rates. Some forms of volatility can be anticipated, while others are more difficult to predict.

"Some people say volatility is a polite way of referring to investors' nervousness," Horgan said.

In response to these events, investors and account holders will often make financial decisions that might not be the best for their financial accounts and assets.

So you are better prepared to manage the savings you have worked so hard for, secure your seat at the CU Boulder or CU Anschutz Medical Campus presentation:

CU Boulder: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Nov. 13, Williams Village, Village Dining Center Room B Register[4]

CU Anschutz: 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Nov. 14, Fulginiti Pavilion, 427-100 Register[5]

Learn more about Retirement Ready events on all CU campuses on the Employee Services website[6].

CU system signs onto ACE letter asking Congress to #ProtectDreamers[7]

Faculty, staff invited to join homecoming fun [8]

CU Regents call for 'moonshot' for online education[9]

Likening the effort to John F. Kennedy's 1961 call to put a man on the moon by the end of the decade, the University Affairs committee of the CU Board of Regents on Wednesday agreed in principle to further a revamped effort that would advance online education across the university.

Led by Regent Stephen Ludwig, D-Denver, the five regents on the committee unanimously agreed to work with the administration and campuses before bringing a resolution on the issue to the full board.

"When Kennedy said let's go to the moon, people didn't say, 'We can't do that.' They said, 'Let's figure it out,'" Ludwig said.

Among the key facets of his plan is for CU to develop online bachelor's and master's degree programs that would have a total fixed cost to students of $15,000 each. He also suggested an investment of $20 million to jump-start the effort. Its intent is to help CU meet its statewide mission and help with affordability and access, particularly for first-generation students and those in rural Colorado.

Ludwig went through the recent history of CU's efforts to bring together efforts across the system under one umbrella. While there were pockets of good work done, he said the overall effort, which was marketed under the moniker CU Connect, was a "failure."

However, he lauded cross-campus efforts, still in progress, to develop a CU-wide, three-year online interdisciplinary degree. Ludwig said the initiative shows CU faculty and staff can address sometimes-thorny issues such as revenue sharing and concurrent enrollment. But CU's culture, reward system and structure inhibit progress on a larger effort, he said.

The moonshot is necessary because of population growth, worries about a looming recession and increased competition, Ludwig said. CU also needs to focus on meeting its mission to serve the state and its residents rather than hoping the current business model will continue to be viable.

Regent Jack Kroll, D-Denver, agreed, saying CU needs to consider the ongoing disruption of the entire higher education enterprise, largely driven by technology.

"We have to look around corners," Kroll said.

The administration has provided initial feedback on the idea, but regents and administrators agreed that much more

discussion is in order. A draft resolution will serve as the basis for that discussion. The full board is expected to take up the issue at its Nov. 16-17 meeting at CU Boulder. Additionally, system Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Lightner said he is bringing the issue to Faculty Council today.

“We need structural changes to serve the state. Doubling down on today won’t meet the needs of tomorrow,” Ludwig said.

Click here[10] to see the report presented at Wednesday’s committee meeting.

It’s all about people for Rod Walker: instructor combines policing, teaching[11]

Take an interactive tour of CU in the City[12]

State of the Campus: ‘By any metric, we are gaining’[13]

Bowman elected to National Academy of Medicine [14]

Faculty Excellence Luncheon honors over 30 educators [15]

In memoriam: Richard Traystman[16]
[17]

UPDATED OCT. 30, 2017: The campus memorial for Richard Traystman, PhD,[18] vice chancellor for research and Distinguished Professor of the University, will be at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7, in Room 1102 of Education 2 South. The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus has established the Richard Traystman, PhD, Memorial Fund?[19] to honor his memory. The family also suggests donations to the American Heart | Stroke Association[20].

Richard Traystman, Ph.D., vice chancellor for research for the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus and Distinguished Professor of the University, died Oct. 19, 2017.

From School of Medicine Dean John Reilly:

“Dick was a generous colleague, accomplished scientist, prolific author, and thoughtful administrator. He made significant findings in our understanding of cerebral blood flow and metabolism through decades of continually NIH-funded research and in more than 475 articles published in peer-reviewed journals. A recent grant[21] – $2.5 million over four years from American Heart/Stroke Association and the Bugher Foundation – offers an example of Dick’s collaborative approach to research and his goal of improving the quality of patients’ lives. That grant aims to

understand pediatric stroke and brings together investigators from seven departments or specialties on our campus: anesthesiology, biostatistics, cell and developmental biology, neurology, pediatrics, pharmacology, and radiology. Dick earned BS and MS degrees from Long Island University and a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University Medical Center, where he worked for more than 30 years until he was recruited in 2003 by the Oregon Health & Science University. CU recruited him in 2007. Dick's kindness, wit, candor, and thoughtfulness will be missed. We offer condolences to Dick's wife, Suzann Lupton, his family, and his legion of friends, mentees, and colleagues. A funeral service, by invitation for family and close friends, will be held on Nov. 1. Members of the campus community will be invited to pay respects at a memorial service to be scheduled later in the month. We will share details when they are available."

Deep roots in Denver[22]
[23]

Alan Davis, Ph.D., calls himself a "Colorado boy." The CU Denver education professor grew up near Golden, started skiing when he was 12 and graduated from Wheat Ridge High School.
Career advancement opportunity Interested in advancing your career at CU with courses and degrees (MA and PhD) from CU Denver's Research and Evaluation Methods program?

Solve problems by:

- Designing research plans and conducting the research

-Identifying appropriate sources of information to collect data

- Designing appropriate methods of data collection such as questionnaires and interview protocols

- Analyzing date using quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods

- Using SPSS, NVivo and other applications to analyze data

- Interpreting data and reports
LEARN MORE[24]

Davis[25] might also be called a Denver scholar for the years of service he has given, and continues to give, to schools in the Mile High City. From serving on Denver Public Schools (DPS) boards and task forces to helping develop the CU Denver–DPS Research Collaborative, he has been a partner in local education for decades.

The CU Denver faculty member of 27 years received the 2017 Lynn K. Rhodes Endowed Faculty Award from CU Denver's School of Education and Human Development (SEHD). Named for the former CU Denver education dean, the awardee is chosen by former Dean Rhodes and current Dean Kantor to honor SEHD faculty who make a significant contribution to the school and the communities we serve.

"I have high regard for the purpose of the prize and was very honored by the award," Davis said.

Research for the community

A faculty member in CU Denver's Research and Evaluation Methods[24] program, Davis has contributed much of his community service through his research for DPS. Since 2011, he has served as researcher-in-residence with the CU Denver–DPS Research Collaborative, coordinated a professional development grant to help English language learner (ELL) students in Denver, and led local initiatives to improve attendance, increase organizational coherence and reduce dropout rates.

His research returns often to issues of culture and diversity, such as ELL success factors, urban learning environments and the immigrant experience. He's fascinated with the concept of an adolescent student's developing sense of identity and how it affects academic success and career aspirations. Through a National Science Foundation grant[26] project led by SEHD Mathematics Education professor Ron Tzur, Davis is now studying a new approach to teaching mathematics[27] to multilingual learners in low-income urban schools.

"Part of the pleasure of my work is constantly learning new things," Davis said. "It keeps you mentally young. Now that I'm 70 years old, that's one of the things that I think about."

Connecting across cultures
[28]

As an undergraduate in Southern California in the late 1960s, Davis planned to become an economist. But that changed when a serendipitous hitchhiking encounter led him to a job teaching eighth- and ninth-grade math and language arts in San Luis, Colorado.

"It was a life-changing experience," he said. "I was bilingual, and so were all but four of my students. The culture of the San Luis Valley was new and wonderful to me."

He went on to get his master's degree in teaching from Harvard University. As he gained diverse teaching experiences — in the Philippines, at Native American high schools and with urban and rural school districts across the country — Davis learned more and more about the role of culture in education, and in achievement gaps.

"Nothing exists outside of culture," he said. "So, it's important that teachers learn something about the culture and neighborhood that their students come from and find a way to connect with that."

Davis has brought this mindset to his decades of teaching SEHD undergraduate, master's and doctoral students. He believes the school's emphasis on culture is one of its biggest strengths.

"At CU Denver, we try to recruit students from diverse populations, and our faculty is pretty diverse as well in terms of race, national origin and sexual orientation," he said. "We see our mission as preparing teachers to work in urban and rural schools with diverse populations."

A legacy through teaching

Davis has been teaching for nearly half a century, and he doesn't intend to stop anytime soon. He's still starting new projects, like his new undergraduate research methods course for SEHD's Human Development and Family Relations [29] program.

"I haven't retired simply because I am in very good health, still learning, still interested in research and still loving the opportunity to teach in and out of the classroom," he said.

"I insist on teaching. Anyone in teaching has a legacy in the sense of what your students go on to do. You have some small share in that, and that's very satisfying."

So satisfying, apparently, that this "Colorado boy" may continue teaching long after he stops downhill skiing.

"I don't want to damage my knees. Those things have to last," he said. "But my job is extremely rewarding to me. I love every aspect of it: teaching, doing research, the service component. It's a job that seems to fit perfectly with my personality and skill."
[30]

This story first appeared in CU Denver Today[31].

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-continues-gather-information-parental-leave[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/retirement-ready-presentation-addresses-market-volatility-rising-interest-rates[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/retirement_p.jpg[4] http://www.cvent.com/d/jtq9y4[5] http://www.cvent.com/d/6tq9yv[6] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/coming-soon/retirement-ready[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-system-signs-ace-letter-asking-congress-protectdreamers[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-staff-invited-join-homecoming-fun[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-regents-call-moonshot-online-education[10] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/ASEPQK5F7C99/$file/University%20Affairs%20Presentation%20ISD%20October%2025%202017.pdf[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/it-s-all-about-people-rod-walker-instructor-combines-policing-teaching[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/take-interactive-tour-cu-city[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/state-campus-any-metric-we-are-gaining[14] https://connections.cu.edu/people/bowman-elected-national-academy-medicine[15] https://connections.cu.edu/people/faculty-excellence-luncheon-honors-over-30-educators[16] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-richard-traystman[17] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/p_memoriam_traystman.jpg[18] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/administration/admin_offices/Pages/Richard-Traystman--2017.aspx[19] https://giving.cu.edu/fund/richard-traystman-phd-memorial-fund[20] https://donatenow.heart.org/stroke/[21] http://www.denverpost.com/2014/05/17/cu-gets-grant-to-study-pediatric-strokes/[22] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/deep-roots-denver[23] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/davis_top_0.jpg[24] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/Academics/Pages/Research-and-Evaluation-Methods.aspx[25] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/FacultyandResearch/Pages/AlanDavis.aspx[26] https://www.cudenvertoday.org/researchers-receive-grant-to-boost-performance-of-math-teachers/[27] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/FacultyandResearch/Grant-Projects/Pages/adped.aspx[28] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/davis_device.jpg[29] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/SchoolOfEducation/Academics/Bachelor/Pages/Human-Development-and-Family-Relations-Program-Track-%E2%80%93--BA-in-Education-and-Human-Development.aspx[30] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/davis_bottom.jpg[31] https://www.cudenvertoday.org/davis-receives-sehds-rhodes-endowed-faculty-award/