Presidential search begins to take shape[1]

The University of Colorado's Board of Regents on Friday took steps to advance the search for CU's next president, expanding the search committee's composition to be more inclusive, adopting changes to the policy that will guide the search and choosing a search committee chair.

The board voted unanimously to name Regent Lesley Smith the search chair. Smith, a former CU Boulder research scientist, has served on the board since 2019 and was the Vice Chair 2020-21.

"Choosing a president is perhaps the most important responsibility for the Board of Regents," Smith said after the vote [2] during Friday's board meeting at 1800 Grant St. "It is incumbent upon the board to conduct a search that is inclusive, trusted and embodies the spirit of our four campuses. The board is determined to take the time needed to find the best candidate, one who can inspire our community and lead CU at a challenging time for higher education."

Smith and Board Chair Jack Kroll promised a transparent, inclusive search for the next leader of the CU system.

"Our next president must be a visionary, inclusive, transparent and inspiring leader, someone who will uphold the university's values, work collaboratively across our campuses, advocate for our mission and ensure that the University of Colorado remains a leading public research university with a diverse community," Kroll said in a message to the CU community[2]. "We are confident that we will find such a candidate at the conclusion of this search and are committed to keeping you informed throughout the process."

The board also voted to expand the search committee's composition to be more inclusive of the university community and support the board's commitment to diversity. Regents will determine the size of the committee, but it must include two students (one graduate and one undergraduate), two staff members and one member of the CU Foundation Board of Directors.

Other changes to the policy[3] stress a commitment to diversity and inclusion throughout the process, from the selection of search committee members to choosing candidates for president.

Regents set a 30-day deadline for nominations to the search committee once the board announces the process has begun. Nominees must provide professional qualifications, tell why they're interested and promise they have no conflict of interest.

The complete list of policy changes is posted here[4], with an explanation posted here[5].

Board members continue to meet with stakeholders across the university and around the state to discuss the qualities of CU's next president. A just-launched website[6] invites input and feedback on the presidential search via a comment submission page. Updates on search progress will be posted at the site as well.

Regents next will hire a search firm and request nominations for the search committee, which "will include diverse representatives of CU's key constituent groups and members of our community," Kroll said.

Regents launch presidential search website[7]

As the search for CU's next president picks up momentum, the Board of Regents has created a presidential search website[6] to keep the university community informed of progress, solicit input and feedback, and detail the policies and principles guiding the search.

The board posted guiding principles on the site that articulate how it intends to proceed. One notes that "The Board of

Regents is committed to a transparent process that engages the university community to find the best leader to guide CU into the future while meeting its mission to serve the students and the state."

While much information on the site is current, including revisions the board adopted last week to Regent Policy 3-C[3] (which guides the search), other details are still being determined. The board is expected to issue a call for nominations for the search committee soon. It is also refining the president's job description, which will be posted later. Additionally, regents are scheduling a series of listening sessions with governance groups and others inside and outside the university, and the website will have updated schedules as meetings are set.

The site has a form[8] where people inside and outside CU can provide their input on the process or the position. It also features a list of frequently asked questions[9].

CU Strategic Plan: Robust research goals ahead[10]

[11]

Key research leaders across the CU system highlighted achievements and detailed goals for the next five years during Friday's Board of Regents meeting.

For the latest deep dive into the university's strategic plan[12], board members explored Discovery and Impact, one of the plan's four pillars.

Increasingly, collaboration among two, three or all four CU campuses drives growth in research funding, affirming a whole that's greater than the sum of its parts. CU researchers continue to address the needs of industry, the military, and supporters and stakeholders across the state and nation.

From CU Denver, Martin Dunn – interim chief research officer and dean and professor, College of Engineering, Design and Computing – said the campus's sponsored research funding remains relatively flat in recent years. Year-end sponsored research award totals ranged from $18 million to $26 million since 2015.

The campus set a $20 million sponsored research funding goal for 2026. Campus leadership will encourage more interdisciplinary collaboration among researchers, making it more of a team sport than an individual one, Dunn said. CU Denver's designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution and Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution also will grow research opportunities and reputation.

From UCCS, Jessi Smith – associate vice chancellor for research, research integrity officer and professor of psychology – said the campus aims for $14 million in sponsored research funding in 2026. The figure matches the current three-year average.

Recent cybersecurity initiatives are elevating research at UCCS, Smith said. Cybersecurity-affiliated researchers secured 40% of last year's research funding. Partnerships – such as the recently announced[13] agreement with the U.S. Space Force – and collaborations across CU campuses bode well for the future.

One such collaboration revolves around national security and intelligence. CU Boulder's Center for National Security Initiatives[14] addresses advanced capability needs of the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Intelligence Community with leading-edge, high-impact research. Researchers' work in space medicine at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, manufacturing at CU Denver and cybersecurity at UCCS heighten the impact.

Another intercampus effort, the AB Nexus[15], teams CU Anschutz and CU Boulder. Terri Fiez, vice chancellor for research and innovation at CU Boulder, and Thomas Flaig, vice chancellor for research at CU Denver l Anschutz Medical Campus, both touted last year's impressive launch. The initiative awarded $1.2 million to 16 project teams in

its first year, and aims to grow external funding by $29 million by 2024.

Flaig, also professor and Robert Rifkin Endowed Chair in the Division of Medical Oncology at the CU School of Medicine, said CU Anschutz's climb in sponsored research funding from $599 million last year to over $650 million this year represents a "great national validation of what we're doing," and sets up a 2026 goal of $825 million. The campus also will track the number of patients served by CU Anschutz clinical faculty, who provided care to over 600,000 in the 2020-21 fiscal year and now aim for over 700,000 patients served in 2023.

CU Boulder achieved $679 million in sponsored research funding for 2020-21 and aims for $800 million in 2026, Fiez said. NASA funding of $149 million led the current year's lofty total, while National Science Foundation funding – "a metric of your quality," she said – reached $111 million. Campus leaders expect national security research at the campus to boost future funding totals. Read more in CU Boulder Today[16].

See slides from the research presentation here[17].

Administrators plan presentations on other aspects of the systemwide strategic plan, its goals and metrics at future Board of Regents meetings.

Total system enrollment up slightly for fall[18]

Student enrollment across the CU system is up slightly – 0.6% — compared with a year ago, based on a preliminary fall total of 66,777.

Regents received details on the enrollment estimates[19] from Chad Marturano, acting CFO, during the board's meeting Friday at 1800 Grant St.

While that total also is slightly above the June estimate that was used to determine the current fiscal year's budgets, leadership won't consider potential 2022 compensation increases for faculty and staff until evaluating final census figures expected later this month. The board will hear in October whether target revenue levels have been reached.

CU President Todd Saliman noted that smaller classes of incoming freshmen this fall and last fall, influenced by the pandemic, will continue to have ripple effects in enrollment totals for years to come. The campuses continue to work hard at recruiting new students and retaining current students to offset these effects.

In other business at Friday's meeting, the board instructed the campuses to make available in-state tuition status for American Indians who belong to tribes with historic ties to Colorado. The move aligns with a change to state law SB21-029[20] made earlier this year by the Legislature.

A video recording of last week's meeting is posted here[21].

At 20th anniversary of 9/11, CU community remembers, reflects[22]

Saturday marked 20 years since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Across the University of Colorado, community members honored the memory of those lost and recognized first responders.

CU Boulder

The University Libraries compiled a list of archival resources. Tributes took place at Saturday's football game between

the Buffs and Texas A&M at Denver's Empower Field at Mile High. The ATLAS tower on campus was lighted in blue [23] at night.

Read more here: https://www.colorado.edu/today/2021/09/10/remembering-victims-first-responders-911[24]

UCCS

"If this 20th anniversary of 9/11 is about any one thing, let it be about self-reflection and honest inquiry," wrote Patrick J. D'Silva, an instructor in the UCCS Department of Philosophy.

Read more here: https://communique.uccs.edu/?p=134800[25]

CU Denver

"The 20th anniversary of 9/11 provides an opportunity for remembrance and reflection," wrote Chancellor Michelle Marks. "We can use lessons learned from that fateful day as we confront contemporary problems and create a more peaceful, just, compassionate world."

Read more here: https://www.ucdenver.edu/about/leadership/chancellor/communications/messages/remembering-9-11 [26]

CU Anschutz Medical Campus

For the survivors and families of the nearly 3,000 people killed on 9/11 — and the scores of people impacted by mass tragedies in this country before and since — the next few days could be an intensely steep rollercoaster ride.

Read more here: https://news.cuanschutz.edu/news-stories/mass-memorials-a-place-to-grieve-heal-remember[27]

New effort to bolster Colorado's national security and aerospace workforce[28]

Upward Bound celebrates 40 years at CU Boulder [29]

UCCSlead: Building a new generation of leaders[30]

CU Denver rises in the U.S. News & World Report social mobility ranking[31]

Climate change fuels multiple threats to society's health [32]

Ye wins Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics[33]

Sicker appointed as chief computing officer, will lead computing cross-campus task force [34]

Martinez, Employee of the Quarter, spreads cheer one cup at a time[35]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/presidential-search-begins-take-shape[2] https://view.communications.cu.edu/?qs=53059a6cdea882da5d9a46643edc3cc18948d7acb944a9e98d919fa7a382862dac3b2701bfe169e3d460da2467bf6e5e3395897efdc2091487b83bd7b5b0a92d6bf0a952c82a371c156262f3b5942f7e29c57dd376a0e400[3] https://www.cu.edu/regents/policy/3[4] https://www.cu.edu/doc/policy-3c-draftpdf[5] https://www.cu.edu/doc/policy-3c-justificationpdf[6] https://www.cu.edu/presidential-search[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-launch-presidential-search-website[8] https://www.cu.edu/presidential-search/forms/feedback[9] https://www.cu.edu/presidential-search/frequently-asked-questions[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-strategic-plan-robust-research-goals-ahead[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/strat-plan_top.jpg[12] https://www.cu.edu/strategic-plan[13] https://communique.uccs.edu/?p=134384[14] https://www.colorado.edu/researchinnovation/nsi[15] https://www.colorado.edu/researchinnovation/2021/08/09/ab-nexus-announces-third-round-grants-drives-research-breakthroughs[16] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2021/09/10/regents-hear-enrollment-update-name-chair-presidential-search-more[17] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/stratplanseptboardmtg_1.10.pdf[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/total-system-enrollment-slightly-fall[19] https://go.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/C6QNB75DC52C/$file/FY%202021-22%20Preliminary%20Fall%20Enrollment%20(9-10-21%20final).pdf[20] https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb21-029[21] https://cu.new.swagit.com/videos/136796[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/20th-anniversary-911-cu-community-remembers-reflects[23] https://www.colorado.edu/today/atlas-tower-shines-blue-20th-anniversary-911[24] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2021/09/10/remembering-victims-first-responders-911[25] https://communique.uccs.edu/?p=134800[26] https://www.ucdenver.edu/about/leadership/chancellor/communications/messages/remembering-9-11[27] https://news.cuanschutz.edu/news-stories/mass-memorials-a-place-to-grieve-heal-remember[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-effort-bolster-colorado-s-national-security-and-aerospace-workforce[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/upward-bound-celebrates-40-years-cu-boulder[30] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccslead-building-new-generation-leaders[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-rises-us-news-world-report-social-mobility-ranking[32] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/climate-change-fuels-multiple-threats-society-s-health[33] https://connections.cu.edu/people/ye-wins-breakthrough-prize-fundamental-physics[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/sicker-appointed-chief-computing-officer-will-lead-computing-cross-campus-task-force[35] https://connections.cu.edu/people/martinez-employee-quarter-spreads-cheer-one-cup-time