Regents begin gathering input in advance of presidential search[1]

The Board of Regents has begun engaging members of the CU community as the presidential search process is soon to begin.

Members of the board last week led their first listening session as part of the Faculty Council's first meeting of the academic year, held Aug. 26 via Zoom.

"This is our first listening stop," said Regent Lesley Smith, who also was joined by Regents Jack Kroll (chair), Sue Sharkey (vice chair), Glen Gallegos and Ilana Spiegel. "It will be interesting to see what threads come out most strongly among all the different groups."

Several council members emphasized that they'd like CU's next president to have experience and background in an academic environment; a demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion; and the ability to advocate for CU in boosting public opinion and securing state funding.

"It would be great to shy away from candidates that have solely business or political backgrounds, and have more academic background," said Tamara Terzian of CU Anschutz. "We need a president that understands the dynamic and the needs of an academic environment."

CU Denver's Carrie Makarewicz said the next president should have a "proven commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion throughout their career, and preferably as a high-level administrator for a large university system such as ours."

Jarrod Hanson, also from CU Denver, said "it is important for the candidate to have a system eye and to be able to foster the unique strengths of each campus."

Cindy O'Bryant of CU Anschutz said the ideal candidate will be a strong supporter of public education who can engage community members inside and outside the university, and "someone who can be a face across Colorado, not just in Boulder or on the four campuses."

Board Chair Kroll said a website for the presidential search will be launched soon and will provide a way for visitors to submit input for review by regents.

Kroll, recently elected as chair of the board, emphasized his wish to continue conversations with governance groups.

"We want to ensure we have strong shared-governance relationships," Kroll told Faculty Council. "It's not just the presidential search that we're going to need to work together on. … We know that here in Colorado we have a challenge with respect to state funding."

Beyond the systemwide Faculty Council, Smith said regents also plan to have presidential search listening sessions with individual campus Faculty Assemblies. "So there will be multiple ways faculty can give us input," she said.

Said Jeremy Hueth, vice president, University Counsel, and secretary of the Board of Regents, "One of the board's utmost priorities is to make sure this search process is as transparent as can be."

The Board of Regents' Governance Committee on Wednesday was slated to review proposed revisions to Regent Policy 3-C[2], which provides a framework for the presidential search. Once those changes are agreed to, the next step for the board will be to select a search firm, elect regents to lead the search committee, establish a position description and charge to the search committee, and define the search committee make-up. Most of these steps are expected to take place at the Sept. 9-10 board meeting.

Saliman talks priorities with Faculty Council[3]

CU President Todd Saliman last week highlighted his priorities for the year with the Faculty Council during the governance group's Aug. 26 meeting, held remotely.

Saliman introduced his agenda, including the development of a new campaign aimed at raising awareness of the value of higher education, not just in terms of degrees but in intangibles.

He also wants to promote the affordability of a CU degree.

"The cost of getting an undergraduate degree from all of our campuses, for every income group, has declined over the last five years, when adjusted for inflation," Saliman said. "The perception that cost is spiraling out of control is just wrong. It's going to take some work to figure out how to convince people of that reality. That's one of my top priorities."

Saliman also updated the council on two system initiatives.

The Transformation and Innovation Program recently was reoriented to be a more collaborative process with the campuses, garnering positive reaction, he said.

Work on CU Online continues as well, Saliman said, with the system Office of Digital Education working to understand what the campuses want and need for their online efforts.

"The only reason we exist at CU system is to make the campuses successful," he said. "So we're reopening that conversation with the chancellors."

David Moon of UCCS and other council members thanked Saliman for being frank and transparent in his remarks to the governance group, previously in his role as system CFO and currently as president.

"Having an open conversation, even about difficult things, is important," said Faculty Council Chair Mary Coussons-Read of UCCS. "That's the way we're going to move forward."

Ancient humans turned elephant remains into a surprising array of bone tools[4]

Wren: Examining climate change of the past can reveal strategies to survive in the future[5]

National Preparedness Month: Campus events teach resiliency skills[6]

Reading the waves: Summit targets pandemic's evolution[7]

Kroll reflects on his alma mater, CU Denver[8]

Maloy, Parker honored with Distinguished Research Lectureships[9]

Frey revisits post-9/11 memoir[10]
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Julia Frey, professor emerita in the Department of French and Italian at CU Boulder, recently completed an updated version of her memoir "Balcony View: Living at Ground Zero After 9/11."[12]

Frey said she took early retirement in 2000 because her husband, CU Boulder professor Ronald Sukenick, was slowly dying of inclusion body myositis, which progressively left him severely disabled. The couple moved to New York, into a specially equipped apartment in Battery Park City, across the street from the Twin Towers. "Balcony View" tells the first six months of their experience after 9/11.

Today, she said, her diary of those days and months is unexpectedly significant. What they lived through during and after the 9/11 attacks, virtual prisoners in a small apartment, one of them dying, in an ongoing emergency?–?no electricity, gas or drinking water?–?has become a tragically familiar situation. The pandemic and natural disasters have left many others, equally unprepared, taking care of desperately ill family members.

[12]

Frey said she decided to do a revision of her original, handwritten diary "because the story of how a couple of unheroic, eccentric intellectuals and their irrepressible cat, Pearl, muddle through their own catastrophe and sometimes come out smiling might help others going through similar double coping. There is even a happy ending."

The first edition of "Balcony View" (2011) was a finalist for an Indie Discovery Award in Memoir. Frey lives in Paris and Vallauris, France.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/regents-begin-gathering-input-advance-presidential-search[2] https://www.cu.edu/regents/rlpreview[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/saliman-talks-priorities-faculty-council[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/ancient-humans-turned-elephant-remains-surprising-array-bone-tools[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/wren-examining-climate-change-past-can-reveal-strategies-survive-future[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/national-preparedness-month-campus-events-teach-resiliency-skills[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/reading-waves-summit-targets-pandemic-s-evolution[8] https://connections.cu.edu/people/kroll-reflects-his-alma-mater-cu-denver[9] https://connections.cu.edu/people/maloy-parker-honored-distinguished-research-lectureships[10] https://connections.cu.edu/people/frey-revisits-post-911-memoir[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/p_frey_01.jpg[12] https://indiereader.com/book_review/balcony-view-a-9-11-diary/