Carter Pann's big bet on the saxophone[1]

Faculty Council elects new leadership[2]

Faculty Council last week concluded its meeting schedule for the academic year with the election of a new leadership team and appearances by Regent Linda Shoemaker and President Bruce Benson.

Ravinder Singh, formerly vice chair, was voted in as chair, succeeding John McDowell. Joanne Addison was elected vice chair and Monique French was elected secretary, taking over for Peggy Jobe. The new slate of officers, each the only candidate, was elected by acclamation during the April 28 meeting at 1800 Grant St.

In discussion with the council, Shoemaker said she values interaction between the Board of Regents and faculty members; this was her second appearance before Faculty Council since taking office in January 2015.

"Higher ed is changing – we know this, we read it. We know that there are all of these issues on the horizon for higher education," Shoemaker said. "We've got to figure out together where we want this university to be in 10 years. That's hard to do."

McDowell asked about priorities for the board; Shoemaker noted that the regents will readdress the list at their summer retreat with the guidance of outside facilitators.

"Certainly resource allocation has got to be at the top," Shoemaker said. "I also feel like we've been through the worst of the times, in terms of cutting the budget. … All of our campuses need to be healthy, strong and cohesive within themselves."

Benson thanked the council and faculty "for all the hard work," and stressed his ongoing interest in fostering a collaborative culture across the university.

"I can't say enough good about all of you," he said. "I feel really good about the direction we're going. We're going to keep driving this university ahead and keep making it a better place."

Also at the April 28 Faculty Council meeting:
Vice Presidents Michael Lightner, academic affairs, and Kathy Nesbitt, employee and information services, updated the council on progress on the system review of Board of Regents Laws and Policies. Both said that the regents are mindful of shared governance, and that the board-requested review will allow for faculty and staff input on revisions. More communication will be forthcoming. Nesbitt followed up on the recent announcement that the tuition waiver benefit would not be widely expanded[3] this coming year. She said a survey will be used to help determine likely utilization of an expanded benefit, with that information helping to establish a recommendation for the 2017-18 fiscal year. Availability of Lynda.com[4], a learning website that features educational videos on a variety of topics, will be broadened across the campuses later this month, Nesbitt said. The University of Colorado Staff Council has advocated for the platform, currently available at CU-Boulder, as part of its push for more professional development opportunities.

Senate to consider hospital provider fee change[5]
[6]

Colorado lawmakers in the House last week approved House Bill 16-1420, aimed at making a change to the hospital provider fee in order to help higher education and other state priorities.

The bill, which passed 39-26 with bipartisan support, now advances to the Senate. The current legislative session is

scheduled to continue through May 11.

The intent is to reclassify the fee so that it doesn't count against the state's revenue limit. In doing so, this would alleviate potential future cuts to higher education, K-12, transportation and more.

Also being passed on Friday was HB 16-1450, a companion bill, which would determine how any newly available revenue would be distributed. The vote was 43-22, again with bipartisan support.

In other recent business at the Capitol, Gov. John Hickenlooper on Tuesday signed into law the state's $27 billion budget, or Long Bill, which keeps funding flat for higher education. Hickenlooper's original draft from late last year suggested cuts that would have affected the University of Colorado and other institutions. Instead, the 2016-17 budget represents an increase of $1.8 million for CU via the state's higher education funding allocation formula.

Here's an Open Enrollment to-do list[7]

While this year's Open Enrollment gives University of Colorado faculty and staff the option to hold their current benefit plans and take no action, you may want to redraw your hand as a few items require attention before Open Enrollment ends at 5 p.m. May 13.

To-do No. 1: Put aside money for medical expenses

CU offers several options for putting aside pre-tax money for eligible medical and other expenses not covered by insurance, including Health Care Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA), Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts (DCFSA) and Health Savings Accounts (HSA).

Each plan has its own advantages depending on how you intend to use it. Here is a primer:

Want to set aside money for this year only? Look into an FSA: An FSA allows enrollees to set aside up to $2,550 pre-tax per year. The amount set aside must be determined during Open Enrollment and used by Sept. 15, 2017. Reminder: If you don't use it, you lose it. You do not have to be enrolled in a CU Health Plan to participate.

Want to save for health expenses in retirement? Consider an HSA: An HSA allows enrollees to save $3,350 for an individual, $6,750 for a family and an additional $1,000 catch-up contribution for individuals over age 55. These pre-tax contributions go into an interest-bearing savings account with the amounts rolling over each year. You must be enrolled in a high-deductible health plan to participate, but may set up or stop contributions to your HSA at any time.

"HSA enrollment is not an Open Enrollment-driven event, meaning you can enroll, change or waive your election at any time during the year," said Michelle Martinez, director of Benefits and Payroll Administration in CU's Employee Services department. "Open Enrollment is a good time of year to review what your out-of-pocket expenses may be and ensure you are enrolled in a qualified high-deductible health plan if you want to participate in the HSA."

Many participants use an HSA to set aside saving for health expenses during retirement.

Unsure which savings plan best suits your needs? Employee Services recommends reviewing this HSA vs FSA comparison page[8].

Have young children? Look into a dependent care FSA: A DCFSA allows participants to set aside up to $5,000 pretax per household for expenses such as child care for children younger than 13. This amount must be determined during Open Enrollment and used by Sept. 15, 2017.

To-do No. 2: Re-enroll in vision

CU Health Plan - Vision[9] has dropped the two-year enrollment requirement. All faculty and staff previously enrolled in the two-year plan must now re-enroll to continue vision plan coverage. If you do not enroll during Open Enrollment, you will not have vision coverage.

The new plan design allows for eye exams and eyewear purchases each year.
To-do No. 3: Check your confirmation
The day after you've enrolled, you can check your selections in the CU Resources tab of the employee portal[10]. Click on the **Benefits and Wellness** menu, and select **Benefits Summary**. Enter the effective date "7/1/2016." Press **Go**. You will see the selections you made during Open Enrollment.
Learn more

Draw up your game plan by reviewing your options at www.cu.edu/oe[11]. If you're ready to enroll, get started here[12].

Fossil kits bring CU-Boulder museum to classrooms across Colorado[13]

Medical students begin training in Colorado Springs[14]

New Heller Center curator settling in at historic site[15]

NPR's Michele Norris discusses The Race Card Project[16]

Higher Education Leadership Concentration offered[17]

Advance your career in higher education by completing the 30-credit-hour Higher Education Leadership Concentration [18] in the Administrative Leadership and Policy Studies (non-licensure) MA program through the School of Education and Human Development's Continuing and Professional Education (CPE) office at CU Denver.

The Higher Education Leadership concentration serves to prepare leaders for positions in Higher Education with the knowledge and skills necessary to support student success in completing college.

Download the plan of study. (link to PDF in folder)

Students in the program will complete four courses in leadership, one research course and five courses within Higher Education and Student Affairs, of which the courses are aligned with the Counsel for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS). Graduates will develop the knowledge and skills to work as effective leaders and change agents, for promoting diversity and inclusion, in higher education settings.

The fall 2016 application deadline is July 1.

Apply now[19].

For more information, email cpe@ucdenver.edu[20] or call 720-639-9229.

Finalists announced in CU-Boulder engineering dean search[21]

Department of Medicine Announces 2016 Rising Stars[22]

Annual awards ceremony celebrates faculty, staff, student, alumni leaders[23]

Cantu retirement fete scheduled[24]

Lloyd Burton reflects on 40 years of doing[25]

UCHealth system joins forces with CSU health programs in Fort Collins[26]

Mike Grant, champion for student success, retiring after 42 years at CU-Boulder[27]

These CU-Boulder students want to design a bike for obese people[28]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/carter-pann-s-big-bet-saxophone[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-elects-new-leadership[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tuition-waiver-benefit-won-t-see-wide-expansion-year[4] http://www.lynda.com/[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/senate-consider-hospital-provider-fee-change[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/senate-hpf_top.jpg[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/here-s-open-enrollment-do-list[8] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/hsa-versus-hcfsa[9] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/vision-plan[10] https:///C:/Users/sandovalli/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/Temporary%20Internet%20Files/Content.Outlook/2SAIL3YJ/my.cu.edu[11] http://www.cu.edu/oe[12] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/how-enroll[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/fossil-kits-bring-cu-boulder-museum-classrooms-across-colorado[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/medical-students-begin-training-colorado-

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