CU South Denver facility to be sold[1]
[2]

While the University of Colorado has announced its intention to sell the CU South Denver facility, officials say the university remains committed to serving individuals and businesses in the thriving south metro Denver area.

After going through several due diligence assessments, CU leadership determined the facility is not financially viable, said Todd Saliman, senior vice president for strategy, government relations and CFO.

“The CU South Denver teams have worked hard to explore new options, creative solutions and have pursued operational efficiencies and consolidations at the facility,” Saliman said. “Unfortunately, the subsidies the university has provided, and would have to continue to provide, are unsustainable.”

CU will soon issue a request for proposal (RFP) to secure a broker for the property. With guidance from the Office of the State Architect’s Real Estate Programs, the RFP will engage the state-contracted real estate brokerage firm JLL, asking for the qualifications of its proposed broker team, experience in the south metro area, valuation of the property, pricing recommendations, marketing plan, optimal timing for bringing the property to market and identification of potential buyers. The process has begun, with selection anticipated in October. The uniqueness of the property and of its potential buyers and users makes projecting sale terms and date difficult.

The nearly 300 students who are in the four on-site academic programs delivered at the facility will be able to continue there through August 2021. Programs are considering alternatives to allow completion beyond then.

Even before the pandemic, businesses in the area increasingly were moving to training and programming at their own sites rather than send employees to CU South Denver. Additionally, the facility’s 150,000-square-foot space configuration has proven to be challenging for higher education academic use.

CU has an ongoing commitment to the south metro area, which is home to prominent health care facilities, several Fortune 500 companies, and some of Colorado’s largest businesses, including Arrow Electronics, Charles Schwab, Kiewit Construction and others. The university looks forward to building on the relationships with area businesses and community partners.

The facility was gifted to CU in 2015 by ReMax Real Estate founders Dave and Gail Liniger. Before the donation, the site was The Wildlife Experience, a museum and event space the Linigers built featuring wildlife exhibits, art and a 3-D movie theater.

After CU took ownership, in addition to classrooms and meeting space, the facility became home to startup operations for the Office of Digital Education (ODE), which provides recruitment, marketing, student success and other support services to online programs across the CU system. Over the next year, ODE employees who need office space will relocate to 1800 Grant as part of a broader revamp of space utilization in the building driven by increased remote working as a result of the pandemic.

Enrollment ripples will have long-lasting effects[3]
[4]

Overall fall enrollment numbers at CU campuses are better than many expected, given the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, but CU officials are still concerned by significant declines in new freshmen, international students and nonresidents, according to an update provided to the Board of Regents during its Sept. 10 meeting.

The preliminary numbers presented are mostly near estimates that helped determine the current year’s budgets.

A video recording of the meeting, held remotely via Zoom, is posted here[5].

Still, as uncertainty in the face of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic lingers, so will budget uncertainty, said Todd Saliman, senior vice president of strategy, government relations and chief financial officer.

As presented to the board, preliminary estimates[6] comparing this fall to the fall of 2019 indicate total enrollment drops of 1.7% at CU Boulder and 3% at UCCS. Total enrollment is up at CU Denver, 1.1%, and CU Anschutz, 2.5%.

Diminished revenue means the CU Boulder budget is $25.2 million short of what was estimated in June, when the board adopted this year's budget. The campus already has instituted furloughs and temporary pay reductions, with an additional 5% planned cut to unit budgets. Should more cuts be needed, steps might include further salary reductions, early retirements, position eliminations and more hiring delays.

At UCCS, the enrollment dip wasn't as severe as anticipated, leading to a $14.1 million improvement in the budget. The campus credited effective budget cutting measures over the summer.

CU Denver and CU Anschutz also had begun taking steps to tighten budgets; the enrollment changes over June estimates resulted in negligible budget adjustments.

The most significant enrollment shifts this year over last year are among international undergraduate students and total new freshmen. The latter figures are down 12.1% at UCCS, 12.3% at CU Boulder and 12.8% at CU Denver.

"We know the reduced number of freshman students will have continued impacts for years," Saliman said.

Pat O'Rourke, interim executive vice chancellor and chief operating officer at CU Boulder, said this fall has seen "an extraordinarily high number of deferrals," those students who were admitted for the current year but who decide to wait until next year to attend.

The pandemic is believed to be a major factor in those figures, as it is in the drop in international undergraduate students. Those totals are down 12.8% at CU Denver, 22.2% at CU Boulder and 22.6% at UCCS.

In other business at last week's Board of Regents meeting:

The board heard updates on diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, which were emphasized in committee work[7] over the summer. Reports and actions steps have been slated for board meetings in November and April. "We're hearing loud and clear that there is strong interest and desire that we really move the needle on the diversity, equity and inclusion work we'll be doing in the next year," said Vice Chair Lesley Smith. CU Boulder College of Music's David Korevaar, named a Distinguished Professor in 2019[8], appeared via Zoom to formally receive his recognition from the Board of Regents. The performance pianist said he has used time away from live concerts to record a video series of all 32 Beethoven piano sonatas. The recent spotlight on institutional racism inspired him to explore the work of Florence Price, a Black composer; he shared a video of his performance[9] of one of her works. "It's only a beginning," Korevaar said. Read more[10] about the meeting in CU Boulder Today. [11]

Watch: President Kennedy presents panel discussion celebrating Constitution Day[12]

University of Colorado President Mark Kennedy convened a panel of some of his national peer higher education colleagues to celebrate Constitution Day, the annual observance of the creation and adoption of the U.S. Constitution on Sept. 17, 1787.

The panel discussion can be viewed here[13].

The discussion features Robert Jones, chancellor of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Linda Livingstone, president of Baylor University in Waco, Texas; and Marty Meehan, president of the University of Massachusetts system. Meehan and Kennedy served together as U.S. Congressmen from Massachusetts and Minnesota, respectively.

“One of the things I find most striking about the Constitution is how timeless the founding ideals and precepts are and how radical they were for their time,” said Kennedy, who moderated the panel. “They were crafted during the time of monarchs, czars and ruling dynasties. No other nation in the world at that time was concerning itself with the idea that all are created equal and entitled to the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

“That we still reference the Constitution in affirming our rights as Americans is incredibly inspiring to me.”

Kennedy and the panelists discussed what the ideals and precepts of the Constitution mean to them personally and to their universities. They also gave their insights on what they mean to the nation. Additionally, the university leaders talked about how today’s heightened focus on social justice influenced their perspective on the Constitution.

“I firmly believe it is within our power to come together as a people and form a more perfect union,” Kennedy said. “The Constitution is our roadmap for doing so.”

Revisions to systemwide policy on special tuition status implemented[14]

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) has announced the revisions to APS8012-Special Tuition Status have now been implemented, effective Sept. 10, 2020.

The proposed changes were reviewed by the campus chancellors and approved by President Mark Kennedy on Aug. 6, 2020, but implementation of the changes was delayed pending approval of a related board resolution, which was adopted Sept. 10.

For more detailed information, go to https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/latest-changes[15]. For additional information on systemwide APSs, go to: http://www.cu.edu/ope[16].

Regents approve new Policy 13.I: Contracting Authority and Regent Notification and amendments to the related Policy 3.A

The Board of Regents also formally approved the new Regent Policy 13.I: Contracting Authority and Regent Notification and conforming amendments to the related Policy 3.A: Definitions of Officers of the University, effective Sept. 10.

The new policy requires the regents to be notified of any contracts contemplated to meet or exceed $10 million prior to finalizing a solicitation. Informing the board provides an opportunity to receive board feedback prior to spending commitments being made. Exceptions are made for certain clinical contracts, research contracts, contract renewals, and universitywide price agreements.

For more detailed information, go to https://www.cu.edu/regents/rlpreview#tabs-2[17].

Art and social justice focus of community series [18]

Digital conference to explore origins of writing [19]

Three health workshops to better care for yourself and others [20]

Remote control: Professors who choose remote course format[21]

Preemptive strike against Alzheimer's could markedly change course [22]

Athletes, celebrities talk conquering illness on 'We Are Unstoppable' podcast [23]

Hanenberg named assistant vice chancellor for health and wellness [24]

Bacheldor recognized with Colorado PGA Professional Development Award [25]

CU Boulder welcomes 95 new faculty members [26]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-south-denver-facility-be-sold[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cu-sd_top.jpg[3] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/enrollment-ripples-will-have-long-lasting-effects[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/reg_enrollment_top.jpg[5] https://cu.new.swagit.com/videos/75594[6] https://go.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/BTBTAD766821/$file/FY%202020-21%20Preliminary%20Fall%20Enrollment%20(final)%20.pdf[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-hear-progress-report-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-efforts[8] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/high-impact-educators-researchers-receive-cu-s-highest-faculty-honor[9] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xx6yd4jDlB0[10] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2020/09/10/cu-regents-hear-campus-and-enrollment-updates[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/reg_enrollment_korevaar.jpg[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/watch-president-kennedy-presents-panel-discussion-celebrating-constitution-day[13] https://youtu.be/lPszpzA58yo[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/revisions-systemwide-policy-special-tuition-status-implemented[15] https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/latest-changes[16] http://www.cu.edu/ope[17]

https://www.cu.edu/regents/rlpreview#tabs-2[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/art-and-social-justice-focus-community-series[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/digital-conference-explore-origins-writing[20]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/three-health-workshops-better-care-yourself-and-others[21]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/remote-control-professors-who-choose-remote-course-format[22]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/preemptive-strike-against-alzheimer-s-could-markedly-change-course[23]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/athletes-celebrities-talk-conquering-illness-we-are-unstoppable-podcast[24]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/hanenberg-named-assistant-vice-chancellor-health-and-wellness[25]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/bacheldor-recognized-colorado-pga-professional-development-award[26]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-boulder-welcomes-95-new-faculty-members