

## CSU Fort Collins Faculty Update

Prepared for the October CSU System Board of Governors Meeting

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### Faculty Council Updates

**Task Forces.** The CSU Fort Collins Faculty Council has initiated several new task forces to address emerging challenges and opportunities on our campus. In Fall 2023, the Task Force on Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Degrees (chaired by Sarah Badding and Shawn Bingham) began their work, with a focus on identifying some of the institutional barriers to interdisciplinary undergraduate programs. They've conducted a significant number of interviews with various stakeholders across campus and will be presenting Faculty Council with recommendations to improve Interdisciplinary Understanding programming later this fall. The Task Force on Standalone Certificates (chaired by Andrea Duffy and Jennifer Martin) began their work in Spring 2024 and have made great progress towards establishing recommendations for internal processes to support the successful delivery of standalone certificate programs. This work follows a Faculty Council update to the General Catalog which broadened the definition of certificates, including offering of certificates to non-degree-seeking learners. This Task Force recently launched a request for standalone certificate proposals and looks forward to launching the first standalone certificates in Fall 2025.

In addition to the ongoing work of these Task Forces, the Faculty Council has charged a Task Force to address updating our Institutional Learning Objectives and Revising the All-University Core Curriculum (AUCC). Their work began in Summer and is ongoing. Additionally, the Faculty Council is currently formulating Task Forces to address faculty mentoring and departmental code reviews. We look forward to those task forces completing their work next year.

**Meet & Greets.** Continuing the momentum from last year, Faculty Council is again hosting Meet & Greets periodically throughout the semester. These informal meetings provide opportunities for faculty members to engage with Faculty Council leadership, Faculty Council members, and members of Faculty Council standing committees. Additionally, each Meet & Greet includes invited members from university administration. We had a strong attendance at the September Meet & Greet and were pleased to welcome Provost Marion Underwood and the Vice President of University Operations Brendan Hanlon. We look forward to our next Meet & Greet in November.

**Faculty Council Actions.** The Faculty Council has had two meetings in the Fall 2024 semester, while the Executive Committee has met five times. In our September meeting, we received the reports for each of the Faculty Council standing committees. Of note in these reports is the volume of important work the standing committees have done in the last year. These broad and diverse committees represent a significant investment of time and energy across our faculty in advancing the mission and success of our university. The activity of the Standing Committees has continued in AY24-25, with a full docket of action items on the September and October Faculty Council agendas,

including updates to the University grievance process (Section K), promotion processes for Extension faculty, and approval of new degree programs and courses. In each of the September and October meetings, we have received updates from Provost Marion Underwood and VPUO Brendan Hanlon. We are grateful to have regular engagement from our university leadership at Faculty Council meetings and invite all Board of Governors members to consider attending one of our upcoming Faculty Council meetings.

### **Other Campus Updates**

**Budget Model Redesign.** The Budget Model Redesign effort, which began in Summer/Fall 2023, is ongoing. The Executive Sponsor, Steering, and Technical Committees worked throughout the summer and continue to work this fall towards adopting a new budget model as a campus. These Technical and Steering Committees have representation from across campus and are working to identify model parameters and metrics which will encourage growth in support of our campus mission. The Budget Model Learning Year is projected to launch in Fall 2024. In the Learning Year, the new model will run in parallel to the existing incremental model. During this time, the committees will identify adjustments which should be made before launching the “Hold Harmless Year” on July 1, 2025. This Fall, the Budget Model Redesign Steering Committee will host a series of information and listening sessions to share updates on the new model.

**Cybersecurity.** The campus community is engaging in a series of updates related to campus cybersecurity, including a recent update to our Duo two-factor authentication process which launched on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Other efforts include required cybersecurity training for all faculty and staff and a series of controlled phishing tests by the Division of Information Technology to assess cybersecurity awareness among the campus community. Additionally, representatives from the Division of Information Technology provided updates during the October Faculty Council meeting about our cybersecurity risks, challenges, and the necessity of our entire campus community to help address knowledge and security gaps.

**Research Core Facilities Database.** The Office of the Vice President for Research recently launched a database which will allow researchers on campus to search the more than 500 services available to over 30 shared facilities across the campus. This resource will increase the access of campus researchers to equipment and facilities outside of their local unit, while also fostering collaboration, empowering strategic investments, and enhancing efficiencies.

### **Campus Highlights**

I’ll note that it is impossible to acknowledge all the great work occurring among the tremendously talented faculty and staff we have at CSU Fort Collins. Below you’ll find a brief snapshot of recent successes that reflect how fortunate we are as a campus to have so many leaders in research, teaching, and engagement.

- The Teaching Effectiveness Initiative program awarded its first three Teaching Effectiveness Fellow Awards. Recipients of the awards were:
  - Dr. Jennifer Reinke, Associate Professor in Human Development and Family Studies
  - Julie Taylor-Massey, Master Instructor in Human Development and Family Studies

- Dr. Shari Lanning, Assistant Professor in Veterinary Sciences
- At the September 21<sup>st</sup> CSU Football game, faculty and staff who received Celebrate! Awards in the Spring 2024 semester were recognized on the football field at half time. These award winners span our entire campus and a list of awardees can be found [here](#).
- CSU as a hub for hurricane research? The work of CSU's hurricane researchers was not only showcased in a Source [special report](#), but was also highlighted in news stories across the country as the 2024 hurricane season began.
- The College of Business undergraduate supply chain management concentration was recently ranked as #12 in North America by Gartner's. The program began in 2015 and currently has over 250 enrolled students.
- The Center for Meat Safety and Quality (College of Agricultural Sciences) will host an international summit focused on the '[Societal Role of Meat](#)' and livestock production. The summit will convene international experts in animal science and human nutrition and follows the '[Dublin Declaration of Scientists](#)' regarding the role of meat and livestock production the global society.

Daily, the faculty and staff at CSU are committed to engaging in impactful research, effective and innovative teaching, and meaningful engagement with our local, national and global communities. Though their work is sometimes noted by awards and other designations, more significant than the notoriety is the impact they have on students, the scientific community, industry and community collaborators, and our society.