

MINUTES
Executive Committee
Tuesday, February 17, 2026
3:00pm – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106

Present: **Andrew Norton**, Chair; TBD, Vice Chair; **Jennifer Martin**, BOG Representative; **Lise Youngblade**, interim Provost/Executive Vice President; **Sue Doe**, Immediate Past Chair; **Amy Barkley**, Executive Assistant; **Stephen Coleman**, Agricultural Sciences; **Gina Slejko**, Business; **Peter Jan van Leeuwen**, Engineering; **Antonio Pedros-Gascon**, Liberal Arts; **Linda Meyer**, Libraries; **Dennis Harry**, Natural Resources; **Steve Benoit**, Natural Sciences; **Zaid Abdo**, Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Guests: **Melinda Smith**, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; **Brad Goetz**, Chair University Curriculum Committee; **Kimberly Miloch**, Provost Chief of Staff; **Susan James**, outgoing Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; **Colleen Webb**, Dean of the Graduate School; **Steve Reising**, Chair Committee on Faculty Governance & interim University Grievance Officer

Absent: Svetlana Olbina, Health and Human Sciences (excused)

Chair Andrew Norton called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

February 17, 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Minutes to be Approved

1. Faculty Council Minutes – February 3, 2026

Two minor edits were suggested to correct typos and clarify a sentence. Hearing no further suggested edits, the Faculty Council minutes were approved by unanimous consent. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for March 3rd.

2. Executive Committee Minutes – February 10, 2026

Hearing no suggested edits, the Executive Committee minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

II. Items Pending/Discussion Items

A. *Announcements*

1. The Next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on February 24, 2026 – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106 – 3:00 p.m.
2. The Next Faculty Council meeting will be held on March 3, 2026 – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106 – 4:00 p.m.

B. *Provost/Executive Vice President Report – Interim Provost Lise Youngblade*

Interim Provost Lise Youngblade: Provided some updates:

- The Provost's Office has been holding office hours. There have been two (2) so far, with discussions around community support and concerns around Workday issues and budget.
- A member from the Committee on Strategic and Financial Planning attended one of the office hours and asked how the committee could be more helpful to the University with regard to strategy and policy.
- Budget cut scenarios were due last Friday. The next steps will be to meet with each director or leader to talk about impacts and strategies. Discussed some potential strategies regarding this committee, as well as other groups looking at the budget.

An Executive Committee member expressed concern around the impacts on continuing, contract, and adjunct faculty in particular with regard to the budget cuts, as well as cases in which budget information is not being shared by unit leadership. Additional concerns were expressed that some of the committees mentioned have no power with the administration.

Executive Committee members discussed how to best support department leaders with the budget conversations and how onboarding and training could help with this issue.

Provost Youngblade: There is a lot of discussion happening around the Human Resources and finance alignment. There is work being done to figure out the Human Resources and finance parts. They collected all the positions, and while some exist solely in Human Resources and solely in finance, the majority of positions are in the middle. Work is being done to figure out how to pull those apart so individuals report to one stream or the other. That work is being done in collaboration with the individual units that will be affected.

An Executive Committee member asked about the communication around budget decisions and what values decisions will be used while making the decisions.

Provost Youngblade: These are not completely formulated, but student success is front and center. Faculty are part of that. We do not want to hurt the research mission. There is also value in strategy. There have also been discussions about metrics about dollars and things we should maybe stop doing.

An Executive Committee member emphasized that student success cannot happen without faculty success and that faculty success should be supported as well. There are student populations that rely on higher faculty engagement.

A Faculty Council member asked about the Human Resources and finance alignment, as some departments are reliant on those services.

Provost Youngblade: Clarified that these individuals will stay within the departments and there will be a dotted line to the department head or dean. The idea is not to pull the expertise out of the colleges, but to align the functions and supervision of those roles with people who have expertise in those roles. Discussed potential efficiencies that this may help with in other areas, such as procurement.

C. Old Business

D. Action Items

1. UCC Minutes – February 6, 2026

Hearing no discussion or questions, a motion was made to place the University Curriculum Committee minutes on the Faculty Council agenda. Chair Norton requested a vote.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for March 3rd as consent agenda.

2. Proposed Revisions to the Graduate and Professional Bulletin:
Financial Information—Enrollment Status – Committee on
Scholarship, Research and Graduate Education – Rob Schonlau,
Chair

An Executive Committee member made a motion to consider placing the proposed revisions on the Faculty Council agenda. Chair Norton requested some explanation of the proposed revisions.

Dean Colleen Webb: The proposal is to change the definition of full-time status for graduate students from nine (9) credits to five (5) credits. This has been requested over time by college faculty, students, and central administrative units. Explained the justification behind the proposal, which included the effort behind sustaining nine (9) credits, financial aid considerations, and having students accumulate more credits than needed related to their program requirements.

An Executive Committee member asked for clarification on the reasoning behind the lowering of full-time status, as nine (9) credits seemed reasonable. Examples were provided regarding field work and other research, which takes years, and by the time students are done, they've exceeded the number of credits necessary to remain full-time.

Dean Webb: There may also be personal or financial reasons for students to drop from full-time status, and they can't just drop to five (5) credits. There is additional paperwork involved with that.

Another Executive Committee member expressed concern about whether this would change the number of credits required to complete a master's or a PhD program. It was requested that information be put in writing the amount of credits to completion that have been identified by the units will not be affected by this situation.

Dean Webb: Thirty (30) credits for the master's and seventy-two (72) credits for the PhDs follow from accreditation and other legal and policy requirements, so that will not change. The number of credits required for the degree, as set by the department, will remain the same. Additionally, what does not change on this is where the tuition costs level off, which is at nine (9) credits. We will also continue to guarantee nine (9) credits for GTAs as the tuition benefit, except we will put a cap on that. It was indicated that this information would be put in the justification, but the

actual statements regarding this already exist within the Bulletin itself as requirements for a master's and PhD. Those will not be changing.

Dean Webb: Clarified that five (5) credits is the point at which graduate students move from partial to full fee-paying status. It is also the minimum enrollment level at which graduate assistants are eligible for the health insurance contribution. Aligning with the five (5) credit threshold preserves all our core student protections and benefits, but also reduces the unnecessary administrative burden that we are feeling at nine (9) credits and everyone retains their eligibility for health insurance, international students are in compliance with visa requirements, and students supported by grants and other awards that require full-time enrollment will find this easier. It is consistent with federal student loan regulations since we can set the definition of full-time status. This does not change academic standards, degree requirements, or expectations for time to degree. Indicated that this will have an estimated savings of \$700,000 to the University. This has been discussed with the Registrar's Office, Office of Financial Aid, Office of International Programs, Business and Financial Services, and the Provost's Office.

Another Executive Committee member asked whether motivation to move quickly through degrees would be lessened with the decrease in credits required for full-time status.

Dean Webb: The greater problem is having students that have fulfilled all their credits and are staying to complete their thesis or dissertation. Believe the extension is at the end and this would make it less expensive. Because the tuition structure is not changing, it should not be a barrier to them moving through as fast as they do currently.

Hearing no further questions or discussions, a motion was made to place the proposed revisions on the Faculty Council agenda. Chair Norton requested a vote.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for March 3rd.

3. Proposed Revisions to Section C.2.3.1 of the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual – Committee on Faculty Governance – Steve Reising, Chair

Steve Reising: On behalf of the Committee on Faculty Governance, move the proposed revisions for placement on the Faculty Council agenda, as seen in the agenda packet. The motion is to change the name of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures to Languages and Global Studies.

An Executive Committee member asked if this would change any prefixes for courses.

Brad Goetz: Indicated that this will not change course prefixes. They may come through later and do that, but not currently.

Hearing no further questions or discussion, Chair Norton requested a vote.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for March 3rd.

E. Reports

1. Faculty Council Chair Report – Andrew Norton

Chair Norton: Provided some updates:

- There are three (3) task forces underway and they are working toward having reports finalized for the April Faculty Council meeting. There will likely be an action item out of the AUCC task force to approve review criteria.
- The Presidential survey closes this evening, and there are currently 520 responses.
- There has been a request to have the JED Foundation present at Faculty Council, as well as a presentation from the Sustainability Committee.
- The Administrative Professional Council has drafted a survey of salary raises versus budget cuts and has requested that we consider participating.
- The open forum on department codes was held recently and two (2) more are being planned.
- There are conversations around next steps for the recommendations out of the task force on the Academic Calendar.
- Met with Vice President Cassandra Moseley and APC Chair Trish Torrez to discuss the Provost search. We requested that a brief report be given at the next Faculty Council meeting.

Executive Committee members discussed how faculty should be involved in budget discussions and how shared governance played into the conversation. It was suggested that the Committee on Strategic and Financial Planning be better utilized, as well as having more regular meetings specific to budget discussions with the Vice President for University Operations and the Provost.

Additional discussion centered around how the standing committees of Faculty Council engage around discussions and decisions, and how to better support the committees so they feel empowered to enter those discussions. It was suggested that some consideration be made to looking at operating procedures and charges, as well as support systems. An additional suggestion was given to have more regular reports from the Committee on Strategic and Financial Planning.

2. Board of Governors Report – Jennifer Martin

Jennifer Martin: Provided some updates:

- There is a meeting coming up between employee council leadership and some Board of Governors to discuss the Chancellor search.
- There is a special meeting of the Board of Governors on Friday, February 20 at 10:30am to announce the confirmation of Rico Munn as the next Chancellor for CSU.

F. Discussion Items

G. Executive Session

Hearing no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to enter Executive Session. Chair Norton requested a vote.

Motion passed.

Executive Committee adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Executive Session concluded at 6:16 p.m.

Andrew Norton, Chair
TBD, Vice Chair
Jennifer Martin, BOG Representative
Amy Barkley, Executive Assistant