

MINUTES
Executive Committee
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
3:00pm – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106

Present: **Andrew Norton**, Chair; **Zaid Abdo**, 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; **Charlie Hoxmeier**, Health and Human Sciences; **Antonio Pedros-Gascon**, Liberal Arts; **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; **Christine Pawliuk**, Libraries (substituting for Linda Meyer); **Steve Reising**, Chair Committee on Faculty Governance; **Laura Cole**, Committee on Scholarship, Research and Graduate Education Representative; **Ray Black**, Chair Task Force on Free Speech

Absent: Linda Meyer, Libraries (excused)

Vice Chair Zaid Abdo called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

April 21, 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:

I. Minutes to be Approved

1. Faculty Council Minutes – April 7, 2026

Hearing no edits or corrections, the Faculty Council minutes from April 7th were approved by unanimous consent. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for May 5th.

2. Executive Committee Minutes – April 14, 2026

Hearing no edits or corrections, the Executive Committee minutes from April 14th were approved by unanimous consent.

II. Items Pending/Discussion Items

A. *Announcements*

1. The Next Executive Committee Meeting will be held on April 28, 2026 – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106 – 3:00 p.m.
2. The Next Faculty Council meeting will be held on May 5, 2026 – Microsoft Teams/TILT 221 – 4:00 p.m.

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

Interim Provost Lise Youngblade: Provided some campus updates:

- We announced the new Dean for the College of Natural Sciences, Dr. Randall McEntaffer. Dr. McEntaffer will start on July 1st and comes from Penn State.
- A new Dean for the College of Business has been hired and that announcement will be coming out later this week.

Provost Youngblade: Last week was sobering with the budget discussions as notifications went out. This still continues to be hard, and we are looking for ways to support the campus. Provost Office Hours will continue to be held for the remainder of the semester. We have found these to be meaningful and expressed gratitude for those people who have been attending and making connections.

Provost Youngblade: Provided a few additional updates:

- Last Friday, met with President Amy Parsons to hear reports from the leadership of the task forces, including the ones work on the AUCC, program and course review process, and freedom of speech.
- The Provost’s Awards Luncheon is tomorrow where we will celebrated the Provost Awards, awards from the Office of Inclusive Excellence, and the new University Distinguished Professors.
- Had dinner with the students last week on Student Fee Review Board, the University Facilities Fee Advisory Board, the University Technology Fee Advisory Board, and the Active Transportation Fee Advisory Board.
- Met a few weeks ago, along with Vice President Blanche Hughes, with students who have uncertain employment futures based on their citizenship status. These students represent the best of our land-grant mission. We heard from all of them. We have done a lot as a campus to embrace and support these students, but there is much work to do in ensuring equal access for these students in the myriad of opportunities that we offer.
- Had an opportunity to meet with the first-generation students who came to campus to learn more about CSU and participate in the first annual First-Generation Symposium.

An Executive Committee member asked whether there was an indication from President Parsons about reinstating the Multicultural Staff and Faculty Council. Provost Youngblade stated she was not aware of any discussions about this but would follow up.

C. Old Business

D. Action Items

1. UCC Minutes – April 10, 2026

Brad Goetz: Noted that there is a special action item coming next week regarding the information in the minutes around the major in elementary education.

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

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for May 5th as consent agenda.

2. Proposed Revisions to Section C.2.1.3.3 of the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual – Committee on Faculty Governance – Steve Reising, Chair

Steve Reising: Clarified that he is still serving as the interim University Grievance Officer through June 30th. The succession plan is taking place for July 1st.

Reising: These revisions are for Section C.2.1.3.3 and discussing the question of whether a partial year would count as a full year for the listed term, such as in the case of Chair Andrew Norton when previous Chair Melinda Smith moving to a new position. In the case of elections prior to January 1st, it would be more than half the year and count towards the consecutive three (3) years that chairs can serve, but if the election happens after January 1st, it is less than half the year and they would remain eligible to serve as chair for three (3) consecutive subsequent years.

Executive Committee members discussed the proposed revisions. A request was made by an Executive Committee member to consider whether this should be similar to the term requirements for the Board of Governors representative. It was noted that the terms of the Board of Governors representative are set by state statute, but the request was noted. Additional discussion centered around whether titles such as “interim” or “acting” should be used to help clarify.

An Executive Committee member requested that some attention be paid around concerns about Faculty Council members moving to leadership positions in administration without any space between time of service and movement into the new positions.

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

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda for May 5th.

3. Proposed Revisions to the Graduate and Professional Bulletin: Requirements for All Degrees: Scholastic Standards – Committee on Scholarship, Research and Graduate Education – Rob Schonlau, Chair

Laura Cole: Discussed the changes to the three (3) changes being proposed. The first policy change is reducing the GPA calculations to just include two (2) GPAs, the program of study GPA and the overall course GPA. The next policy is regarding the Repeat/Repair policy, similar to what is present for undergraduates. The final policy is regarding Academic Watch. Currently, students can stay on Academic Watch somewhat indefinitely through continuous registration and

can elongate the process. Academic Dismissal Warning has a clear two-semester limit, so the addition is to create a two-semester limit for Academic Watch.

Executive Committee members discussed the proposed revisions. Clarity was provided regarding the Academic Watch revision and what had been done previously. A request was made for better formatted documents to allow members to see the changes being made to the sections being submitted.

Hearing no further questions or discussion, 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 May 5th.

4. Final Report from the Task Force on Free Speech – Ray Black, Chair

Ray Black: The history of the task force was in relation to the free speech policy that was changed and people objected to, as well as the ending of the IMT group around academic freedom and free speech in November. The task force met six (6) times and represented the employee groups, students, and others. The different groups on campus had different concerns and the group struggled with academic freedom versus free speech.

Black: Provided an overview of the recommendations. The largest of the suggestions is regarding the limitations a policy on freedom of speech and academic freedom place. Another major recommendation is clarity around who makes the decision around what constitutes free speech on campus, particularly around the chalking policy. Another main recommendation is to have transparency with any policy regarding free speech and academic freedom. The task force also recommends a working group to continue on the issue of free speech and academic freedom amongst the faculty and staff groups.

Executive Committee members discussed the recommendations from the task force and the history around discussions regarding free speech and academic freedom. Additional discussion centered around the recommendation regarding more clear definitions around issues regarding free speech and how the Office of General Counsel would be involved in this process. Another recommendation was to have a standard website for information regarding free speech policies so that students, faculty, and staff know where to go for information. Executive Committee members additionally discussed the process for policy changes and the importance of shared governance in the process, even if the process needs to be expedited.

Hearing no further questions or discussion, a motion was made and seconded to place the task force report on the Faculty Council agenda. Chair Norton requested a vote.

Motion passed. Will be placed on the Faculty Council agenda on May 5th as a report to be received.

E. Reports

1. Faculty Council Chair Report – Andrew Norton

Chair Norton: Provided a few updates:

- The Provost search is ongoing, and the search committee will be providing recommendations to Vice President Cassandra Moseley by the end of the month. Vice President Moseley will meet with President Parsons the first week of May.
- The final college/department code forum was last week. The Provost's Office will be moving ahead to implement the recommendations regarding a standardized form for code and the creation of handbooks for items that do not need to be in the code.
- The Provost and President met with the task force leadership last Friday. It was an engaging conversation.
- Indicated that a response from Vice President Moseley was received regarding the change in title for the Provost and that it emphasizes the academic leadership. More can be shared if needed.
- Reminded members that an Alignment Q&A session will be happening on Thursday, April 23 from 10-11am.
- Employee council leaders are meeting with Vice President Brendan Hanlon on Thursday morning to get a more detailed readout of what the budget cuts look like and what personnel classifications were impacted by unit.

2. Board of Governors Report – Jennifer Martin

Jennifer Martin: Provided a few updates:

- The last of the four (4) Audit and Finance Committee meetings occurred last week and was solely focused on the budget for CSU Pueblo and the CSU System. Indicated the CSU Global's budget is on a different, quarterly cycle. Indicated that work is also being done regarding CSU Pueblo's budget.
- The Administrative Professional Council met last week and passed a resolution regarding bonuses at the executive leadership level. This resolution was forwarded to the President and will be included as part of report at the Board of Governors meeting.
- If the state passes the long bill, the plan at the May Board of Governors meeting is to approve the System budget for FY27. If the long bill is not signed, the campuses will receive provisional approval to move forward with proposed budgets pending the passing of the long bill.

F. Discussion Items

1. May Faculty Council and Executive Committee meetings

Executive Committee members discussed the May Faculty Council agenda and the recent request regarding a potential special meeting for further discussion around the budget. Chair Norton indicated that if a special meeting is still desired, that is something that can be discussed and scheduled.

G. Executive Session

Hearing no further questions or 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 5:28 p.m.

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