

**MINUTES**  
Executive Committee  
**Tuesday, March 31, 2026**  
**3:00pm – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106**

**Present:** **Andrew Norton**, Chair; **Zaid Abdo**, Vice Chair; **Jennifer Martin**, BOG Representative; Sue Doe, Immediate Past Chair; **Lise Youngblade**, interim Provost/Executive Vice President; **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; **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; **Deborah Garrity**, Chair Committee on Teaching and Learning; **Frankie Wilcox**, Co-Chair Task Force on Innovating in the AUCC; **Dale Lockwood**, Co-Chair Task Force on Innovating in the AUCC

Absent: none

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

**March 31, 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEMS:**

**I. Minutes to be Approved**

**1. Executive Committee Minutes – March 24, 2026**

Hearing no suggested edits or corrections, 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 April 14, 2026 – Microsoft Teams/Administration 106 – 3:00 p.m.
2. The Next Faculty Council meeting will be held on April 7, 2026 – Microsoft Teams/Harris-Wood Boardroom – 4:00 p.m.

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

Interim Provost Lise Youngblade: Provided some updates:

- We are seeing the recommendations for various awards and calls going out to people who have won.

- We have appointed six (6) new University Distinguished Professors. Announcements will be coming out about those soon.

Provost Youngblade: The budget remains a topic of discussion. The past month has been a combination of meetings, emails, and conversations back and forth. Provided an overview of the process. At the beginning of the semester, all deans and vice presidents submitted proposals for cuts and were asked to model 10%. We were provided with 636 different proposals, with some of them part of a bigger strategy. These proposals were reviewed alongside Vice President Brendan Hanlon, Chief of Staff Matt Tillman, and Vice President Eric Ray. Then we had meetings with each of the leaders to walk through the proposals. There was constant reiterating, revisiting, and working back and forth. The final meetings with each leader happened last Thursday. We met with the employee council leaders this morning to go over the process as well. Indicated that the state budget is still in play and nothing is final yet. More information will be coming out in the next few weeks and there is a budget forum planned for mid-April. There is also a planning process happening in parallel to prepare people for how to work with Human Resources and how people can be supported.

An Executive Committee member indicated concerns that cuts such as these have more impact on minorities and women. Expressed hope that there would be consideration around this and a commitment to values when making these cuts. Additional concern was expressed by the member around having the Vice President for University Operations also be the Chief Financial Officer for the System Office and reporting to two different people and where the financial decisions may align.

An Executive Committee member asked whether there would be follow-up with the units to confirm they do what the proposals indicate they will do.

Provost Youngblade: There is a lot of information in the proposals, but there is specific information to track positions and money. There is better data with the new Workday System and there will be clear budget lines.

Provost Youngblade: There has been a challenging situation at our Early Childhood Center. There was recently a lockdown due to Fort Collins police serving a warrant at a house across the street. The individual was shooting BB guns at cars and when they searched the house and arrested the individual, they found an arsenal of weapons and a diary of the comings and goings of people at the Early Childhood Center and the neighbors. This individual is in jail right now and is charged with a few crimes. The CSU Police Department has been monitoring the school and setting up surveillance beyond what is already there.

Provost Youngblade: Asked what Executive Committee members would like to hear regarding the budget and what can be done to make communication better.

An Executive Committee member expressed dismay at the repeated expansion of Athletics and administration and felt there was not much else to say that has not been previously stated. Another Executive Committee member suggested sharing information regarding the process and how it is being carried out. Indicated that this would be helpful for those across the University

who are not familiar with the process, as well as helping with transparency about the process and outcomes. An additional suggestion was provided to give general information around distribution of cut positions by type and areas.

Executive Committee members discussed other considerations around the budget and expressed a desire to understand a long-term strategy. Additional discussions centered on communication regarding the cuts and how to present the information.

Hearing no further questions or discussion, the Provost's report was concluded.

### ***C. Old Business***

### ***D. Action Items***

1. Proposed Revisions to Section E.2.2.7.2 of the Academic Faculty and Administrative Professional Manual – Committee on Teaching and Learning – Deborah Garrity, Chair

Deborah Garrity: This motion is coming from the Committee on Teaching and Learning, where we have been engaged this semester in looking at the criteria for the University Distinguished Teaching Scholars. Some time ago, the criteria was updated with a Manual update to indicate continuing and contract faculty are now eligible to receive the award. The committee has been now looking at the actual nomination criteria. This was done in collaboration with the current University Distinguished Teaching Scholars. The revisions include a new statement around “scholarship of teaching” to capture a desire for a broader effort that may not just be only classroom practices but highlight a number of activities around the University where people are using their expertise. A revised rubric has been created as well.

Executive Committee member discussed the revised wording and concerns that “scholarship” may be interpreted as something specific and inadvertently make some individuals ineligible. Suggestions for a potential re-wording of the revisions, as well as clarification of the rationale, were provided by Executive Committee members. Additional discussion pointed out that an update to this section may also require an update to the Section C section for the Committee on Teaching and Learning charge and description.

Following discussion, a motion was made and seconded to send the revisions back to the Committee on Teaching and Learning for further discussion. Chair Norton requested a vote.

Motion to send back to committee passed.

Chair Norton indicated that a meeting would be scheduled to discuss a path forward regarding these revisions.

2. Task Force on Innovating in the AUCC Final Report – Frankie Wilcox & Dale Lockwood, Co-Chairs

Frankie Wilcox: The task force was established in December and was charged with developing criteria for review of new AUCC course proposals, as well as developing procedures for the review of new AUCC course proposals. Provided an overview of the report, including highlighting the primary goals and the creation of more specific criteria. The recommendation is that we use this information in the standing committee that is being created as the guide for what courses should be approved for AUCC. Indicated that there is no prescription being placed on what specific things should be in courses.

An Executive Committee member suggested that discussion at Faculty Council include how this would be different from the current system and where the decisions would reside. Executive Committee members discussed the recommendations and potential questions and concerns that may come up when discussing the recommendations.

Executive Committee members discussed the criteria and the process for approving the criteria. Wilcox explained that the charge of the AUCC standing committee states that they will make recommendations to faculty about evaluation criteria, so the criteria will likely be in the committee's operating procedures. Following discussion, it was determined that Faculty Council should receive the report and then next steps regarding any action items would be discussed.

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 for April 7<sup>th</sup> as a report to be received.

### 3. UCC Minutes – March 27, 2026

Brad Goetz: Noted that there are several time-sensitive items for the College of Engineering within the University Curriculum Committee minutes.

Hearing no questions or discussion, 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 April 7<sup>th</sup> as consent agenda.

## *E. Reports*

### 1. Faculty Council Chair Report – Andrew Norton

Chair Norton: There was a recent meeting between all the officers of the employee councils, Provost Youngblade, Vice President Brendan Hanlon, Chief of Staff Matt Tillman, and the chair of the Committee on Strategic and Financial Planning around the budget. There was good discussion on communication strategies and how to engage with the councils in advance.

Chair Norton: Provided some additional updates:

- The phone interviews for the Provost search were last week.

- We have scheduled a Q&A session around the Human Resources and Finance alignment. Faculty Council has not been too involved in those discussions, as it directly affects administrative professionals and classified staff, but it does affect faculty in regard to services provided. Vice President Hanlon, Vice President Eric Ray, and Vice President Cassandra Moseley will be present.
- The next department code forum is on April 16<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-1:30pm.
- Indicated that the recently approved Sections E.2.1.4 and E.2.1.5 revisions were sent back by the Office of General Counsel. We will be meeting with Jannine Mohr soon to discuss the revisions.

## 2. Board of Governors Report – Jennifer Martin

Jennifer Martin: Provided a few Board of Governors updates:

- We received notice that Board of Governors member Andrew Wirth resigned his position on the Board of Governors.
- Jan Nerger has been appointed as the interim Provost for the CSU Global campus.
- CSU Spur announced a search for a Chief Operating Officer, which will replace the role vacated by Jocelyn Hill several months ago.
- The Audit and Finance Committee has another meeting tomorrow and many decisions are pending the conclusion of the budget reduction process on campus, as well as the state budget process. The Joint Budget Committee is meeting currently and the budget seems like a moving target.

### *F. Discussion Items*

1. Promotion & Tenure Outside Committee Member Pilot – Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Melinda Smith

Discussion item deferred to April 14<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting.

### *G. Executive Session*

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

Motion passed.

Executive Committee adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Executive Session concluded at 6:16 p.m.

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