



Faculty Council Committee Name Annual Report

AY 2019 - 2020

Committee Charge: (as listed in Faculty Council Bylaws)

The Communications Committee considers communication of information regarding the University of Colorado within the University and to the broader communities impacted by the University including:

1. Advising system wide communication media to assure inclusion of relevant content.
2. Identifying appropriate technology used to communicate information.
3. Coordinating the flow of information among campuses and with system wide University communications.
4. Recognizing and promoting examples of excellence found in the University as a means of encouraging continuous growth of excellence.
5. Informing constituencies of the issues before the Faculty Council and urging them to contribute their opinions, analysis, and ideas to the discussion.
6. Publicizing current and upcoming events of significance to the faculty and staff and promoting awareness of the mission and impact of the Faculty Council and other shared governance bodies.
7. Encouraging greater participation in the shared governance process.

Brief description of the committee's activities for the AY:

During AY 2019-2020, we continued and made progress on many of the committee activities from previous years (e.g., Faculty Communication Guide, CU Connections—*Committee Corner* and *Faculty Voices*), as well as initiated new ones (e.g., collaborations with other committees, collaboration with Brenda Allen on diversity and inclusion plan, social media proposal).

Brief description of committee meetings: (how many meetings were held, membership)

During AY 2019-2020, our committee held eight meetings, as follows:

September 12

October 10

November 14

December 12

February 13

March 12

April 9

May 14

Additionally, the committee chair (Carmen Stavrositu) and vice-chair (Carrie Makarewicz) have met twice as many times with the student hire in charge of designing the Faculty Communication Guide (see below).

Committee membership during AY 2019-2020:

Carmen Stavrositu (UCCS), Chair

Carrie Makarewicz (CU Denver), Vice-chair

Jenny Fillipetti (CU Denver), Secretary [Fall only]

Judith Scott (UCCS)

Kathia Ibacache (CU Boulder)
Ken McConnelogue (CU System)*
Jay Dedrick (CU System)*
Cathy Beuten (CU System)*

* non-voting members

Discussion of major activities/initiatives of the committee: (note – discussions can be found in the minutes on the committee’s website. Minutes are intended to reflect discussions, identify action items and document completion of tasks).

1) Faculty Communication Guide

The faculty communication guide initiative started during AY 2018-2019, when we conceptualized it, made a plan for organizing it, and began the initial work of collecting links for its content. This year, we collected the vast majority of the content links, and we hired a CU Denver undergraduate student to help us design the guide. Both activities are mostly completed, with minor tweaks (e.g., missing links, category organization, etc.) to be performed during the summer (see attached communication guide web mockup). Also during the summer, Carmen Stavrositu will work with FC administrator Jonelle Henning to move the guide online, to the new FC website.

2) CU Connections

As in the past, the Communications Committee has worked closely with Jay Dedrick (CU Connections editor) to curate articles for the *Committee Corner* and *Faculty Voices* features of CU Connections.

⇒ **Committee Corner**

The purpose of the *Committee Corner* feature of CU Connections is to introduce the work of the Faculty Council and its committees to the rest of the CU Community, as well as generate more interest in shared governance. At the beginning of AY 2019-2020, we solicited submissions from all seven committees of the Faculty Council, as well as from the Executive Committee. We received submissions from the following committees, which were published throughout the academic year:

Executive Committee

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-executive>

LGBTQ+ Committee

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-lgbtq-0>

Committee on Racial and Ethnic Equity

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-racial-and-ethnic-equity>

Communications Committee

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-communications-2>

⇒ **Faculty Voices**



The goal of the *Faculty Voices* series of CU Connection is to feature opinion pieces by faculty from across the CU campuses, in an attempt to create more cross-campus dialogue. Launched during AY 2018-2019, this series featured a single article in its first year. This past year, committee members have been proactive in identifying prospective contributors and soliciting individual submissions. These efforts resulted in five published articles, listed below:

Coming to Terms with Growth (by George Cheney and Sally Planalp, UCCS)

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-coming-terms-growth>

The Time has Come to Stop Supporting For-profit Journals (by Christopher Bell, UCCS)

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-time-has-come-stop-supporting-profit-journals>

CU System Libraries Support Open Access (by CU Libraries Staff)

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-cu-system-libraries-support-open-access>

Try These Tech Tools to Support Student Learning (by Kathia Ibacache, CU Boulder)

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-try-these-tech-tools-support-student-learning>

A Reflection on Ageism in the Age of Coronavirus (by Judith Scott, UCCS)

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-reflection-ageism-time-coronavirus>

3) Collaborations

During AY 2019-2020, our committee has also forged new collaborations with other FC committees, most notably CREE. Specifically, FC3 and CREE have worked together on two separate issues. First, we discussed ways in which individual FC committees can issue statements/communication on various issues (e.g., harassment on campus, racist incidents, etc.) via available communication channels. Second, we supported their work post-COVID19, when CREE put together a message of support for the Asian community at CU, by helping disseminate the message across CU campuses.

Going forward, we hope to engage with more FC committees and assist them with their communication needs. As part of this goal, we hope that the new FC website will allow our committee to host a news & events section that will publicize various information and events that are relevant to or generated/organized by FC committees.

4) Diversity Marketing Campaign

Our committee has also been involved in the CU Regents' initiative on creating an internal diversity marketing campaign at CU. For this initiative, we have engaged in the following activities:

- Carmen Stavrositu served on the Diversity Marketing Campaign search for a marketing firm
- The entire committee met with the hired firm on two separate occasions (the firm was invited to join our April and May meetings)
- Carmen Stavrositu and Carrie Makarewicz met with Ken McConnelogue (Vice President for Communication) and Elizabeth Collins (Associate Vice President, University Relations) to discuss recommendations for other faculty committees and groups that the firm might benefit from meeting with, as well as to provide feedback on the survey that system administration and the firm put together.



5) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:

- *What specific DEI efforts have been completed/are underway?*
 - Our committee has invited Brenda Allen to join our December and May meetings, during AY 2019-2020. As part of her visits, Brenda led a micro-learning session on DEI, and we brainstormed ways specific to our committee to engage in DEI work.
- *What DEI efforts are you definitely planning to do next year?*
 - During the summer, Carmen Stavrositu will have regular check-ins with Brenda Allen to initiate work on the agreed upon DEI-related initiatives that the committee will finalize next year. These include:
 - Generate a strong rationale for DEI specific to our committee
 - Examine our committee charge and revise with DEI in mind
 - Engage in deliberate recruitment of new members, as one way to improve DEI
 - Collaborate on DEI with other FC committees
- *What DEI efforts you would like to do next year (aspirational)?*
 - Ideally, we would like to continue meeting with Brenda a few times throughout the year. Especially in light of the recent events and protests surrounding the death of George Floyd, I believe continued learning on DEI issues is a must, and specifically exploring ways in which our committee can contribute towards dismantling systemic racism, starting with the CU system. I also firmly believe that, to the extent that Brenda Allen is willing to engage in the exhausting work of teaching all of us to be better allies to people of color, her micro-learning activities will be invaluable for our committee members to apply to the work of our committees, as well as in their other roles on their respective campuses. The meetings with Brenda will also serve as a check on our progress on the initiatives planned this past year but that are to be implemented next year.

Conclusion: The Faculty Council Communications Committee has had an active and productive AY 2019-2020. In addition to old projects and initiatives, we have launched new ones that we look forward to make progress in the coming years. These include new and exciting partnerships with other FC committees, and the urgent and necessary work on DEI matters. We also look forward to the launching of the Faculty Communication Guide, and to welcoming contributions to both the *Committee Corner* and *Faculty Voices* from FC committees and faculty from across the four CU Campuses. Through all of these activities, we remain committed to improving communication at CU, and to identifying new ways to do so.

Respectfully submitted (Committee chair/ co-chairs): Carmen Stavrositu

Submission date: June 8, 2020