



Faculty Council Committee Name Annual Report

AY 2020 - 2021

Committee Charge: (as listed in Faculty Council Bylaws)

The Communications Committee considers matters of communication relevant to faculty at CU, including:

1. Providing guidance related to strategies and approaches (e.g., messaging, appropriate technologies, etc.) for communicating with faculty in an inclusive and equitable way.
2. Inviting greater and more diverse* participation in the shared governance process, and fostering a culture of equity and inclusion.
3. Informing faculty of the issues before the Faculty Council and urging them to contribute their opinions, analysis, and ideas.
4. Providing opportunities for faculty to share insights and ideas about issues impacting faculty across the four campuses.
5. Acknowledging and promoting impactful faculty contributions to affirm and value their efforts.
6. Promoting awareness of the mission and impact of the Faculty Council and other shared governance bodies, and publicizing events of significance to the faculty.
7. Facilitating collaboration among the standing committees of the Faculty Council and assisting them with their communication needs.
8. Advising on system wide communication media (e.g., CU Connections, CU on the Air) to ensure that content is inclusive of and sensitive to diverse* faculty voices.

*Diverse, as used here, encompasses but is not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, nationality, academic rank, religious background, ability, experience, and diversity of thought.

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

During AY 2020-2021, 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., faculty newsletter, revised committee charge, DEI statement, FC interaction guide; the latter two in collaboration with Brenda J. Allen).

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

During AY 2020-2021, our committee held eight meetings, as follows:

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10

February 11

March 11

April 8

May 13

Committee membership:

Carmen Stavrositu (UCCS), Chair

Carrie Makarewicz (CU Denver), Vice-chair

Judith Scott (UCCS), Secretary
Kathia Ibacache (CU Boulder)
Ashlyn Velte (CU Boulder)
Larry Cunningham (CU Denver)
Chris Bell (UCCS)
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 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. The year after that (2019-2020), we collected the vast majority of the content, organized the links, and we hired a CU Denver undergraduate student to help us design the guide. Both activities were completed for the most part at the beginning of AY 2020-2021, when we started working with FC administrator, Jonelle Henning, to build the website for the guide. The Faculty Guide was launched officially on May 13, 2021 (see CU Connections story: <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-cu-faculty-guide-gathers-resources-convenient-spot>).

2) CU Connections

As in the past, the Communications Committee has worked closely with Jay Dedrick (CU Connections editor) to solicit and publish submissions 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 2020-2021, 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-0>

Communications Committee

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-communications-3>

Committee on Racial and Ethnic Equity

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-racial-and-ethnic-equity-0>



LGBTQ+ Committee

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-lgbtq-1>

Budget Committee

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

Personnel & Benefits Committee

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-personnel-and-benefits>

Women's Committee

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-committee-corner-women-1>

⇒ ***Faculty Voices***

This past year, the Communications Committee has continued its efforts to solicit submissions to the Faculty Voices feature of CU Connections:

Now, More than Ever, We Need to Focus on Inclusive Teaching (by Brenda J. Allen, CU Denver)

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-now-more-ever-we-need-focus-inclusive-teaching>

A Historian Gets Fact-checked (by Rachel Gross, CU Denver)

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-historian-gets-fact-checked>

Walking my UCCS History (by DeLyn Martineau, UCCS)

<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-walking-my-uccs-history>

The Persistence of Pay Inequity (by Callie Rennison, CU Denver & Board of Regents), forthcoming.

3) Committee Charge Revision

With Dr. Brenda J. Allen's guidance, the Communications Committee has engaged in a systematic examination of its committee charge, with a focus on aspirational goals and ways in which our committee can incorporate DEI principles in its mission. A revised committee charge was presented to and approved by the Faculty Council in Spring 2021.

4) Faculty Council DEI Statement & Interaction Guide

Our committee has further collaborated with Dr. Allen on formulating a DEI statement and a set of interaction guidelines for the Faculty Council. Both are in final stages of completion before submitting them for a Faculty Council vote.

5) Faculty Newsletter

An important goal of our committee is to strengthen shared governance at CU. Most of our initiatives – Committee Corner, Faculty Voices, Faculty Guide, etc. – are part of a larger effort to improve the visibility of the Faculty Council and its work. A new initiative the committee has undertaken in the same spirit this year,



University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

Faculty Council

1800 Grant, Suite 745

035 UCA

Denver, CO 80203-0000

t 303 860 5607

e facultycouncil@cu.edu

consists of an electronic faculty newsletter to be sent to CU's faculty on all four campuses starting in Fall 2021. The planning stages (brainstorming articles, hashing out technical logistics, selecting a newsletter template, etc.) are completed, and Carmen Stavrositu and Carrie Makarewicz (co-chairs for AY 2021-2022) will be meeting over the summer to work on the first newsletter targeted for mid-September 2021.

Conclusion: The Faculty Council Communications Committee has worked on old and new initiatives in AY 2020-2021. We have finalized the Faculty Guide, FC DEI statement, and FC Interaction Guide, and have revised our committee charge. We look forward to new initiatives, like the Faculty Newsletter, and to continuing our collaboration with CU Connections, via its now regular features – Committee Corner and Faculty Voices. We also look forward to taking a more active role in facilitating cross-committee collaboration starting Fall 2021, now part of our official committee charge.

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

Submission date: May 14, 2021