

To: Board of Regents University Affairs Committee  
From: Joanne Addison, Chair of CU Faculty Council  
Re: Civics Literacy  
Date: December 1, 2018  
Cc: Campus Provosts

In September, the Board of Regents University Affairs Committee requested that the faculty, through their respective Faculty Assemblies, respond to a series of questions as part of an ongoing exploration of expanding civics education at each of CU's three undergraduate campuses. Responses were requested by December 1, 2018. This memo summarizes the feedback from Faculty Council and from CU Boulder, CU Denver, and UCCS.

Faculty across all of our campuses share the Regents' concern for the state of civics literacy in our country and are certainly willing to consider ways that the University of Colorado might better prepare students to be informed and engaged members of our democracy. While there are currently a number of ways that civics education is already being addressed on our campuses, we acknowledge there is room for improvement. However, we should consider the following important principles:

- Any effort to improve civics education among our students should not create additional barriers to admission
- Any effort to improve civics education among our students should not create additional barriers to graduation (time to degree, cost, retention, remediation, etc.)
- Any effort to improve civics education among our students must take in consideration the unique needs of each campus as determined by our varying missions, demographics, etc.
- Any effort to improve civics education among our students must acknowledge the central role of faculty in initiating and developing curriculum.

With this in mind, faculty are energized by the suggestion that our Board of Regents might make funds available to improve civics education across all of our campuses as we currently do not have the resources needed to undertake such an initiative. *While not clearly stated in all of the reports, as a first step, many faculty are interested in developing minors/certificates primarily using existing courses*, in order to gauge the demand for more formal civics education opportunities. In the attached documents you'll see the range of responses gathered from across our campuses.

We look forward to continuing to pursue possibilities for improving civics education at CU and preparing the next generation of citizens.