

TRUSTEES OF COLORADO MESA UNIVERSITY
MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
1100 North Ave, Grand Junction, CO
Dominguez Hall, Gallegos Board Room
April 4, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fry called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Chair Fry

Trustee Buck

Trustee Iwaniczko MacLeod

Trustee Reiff

Trustee Ramos

Trustee Davis

Trustee Foster

Trustee Sekharan

Trustee Dukes

Faculty Trustee Dr. Brian Parry

Student Trustee Kylie Graham

Trustee Ramos and Trustee Griffin attended virtually, and Trustee Moreno was excused.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Dukes moved to approve the minutes of the regular Board meeting January 30th and 31st, 2025. Trustee Sekharan seconded the motion for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

There were no public comments.

REPORTS

CHAIR: Chair Fry began his report by commenting on the events that occurred on campus on March 27th, 2025. He acknowledged the feedback and communications received by the Mavily and broader community and that it was a tough day for many. He acknowledged the comments and lived experiences of individuals and the grace and understanding for the feedback that was received. He acknowledged the space where multiple things can be true at the same time and that the Board and the university can condemn speech that goes against the values of the university and at the same time ensure the rights of students and faculty and staff for free expression under the first amendment especially as a public institution. This can be a tough balance to achieve. He did thank the student leaders who stepped up and organized Unity Fest. He also extended thanks to the community who respected the students and attended the uplifting event as well. He shared that it was a challenging and uplifting day and thanked Trustee Buck and Trustee Sekharan for attending as well. He publicly thanked the Grand Junction Police Department for their presence and support as well.

Additionally, Chair Fry recognized Trustee Foster, Trustee Griffin & Trustee Buck were reappointed and confirmed to the Board and thanked them for their ongoing service. He recognized the CMU Tech event featuring Dr. Temple Grandin and the sold-out public speaking events that occurred as part of her visit. He closed his report by acknowledging the upcoming Holocaust Awareness week.

PRESIDENT: President Marshall introduced the **Human Scale University Champion Award for April 2025**, which was presented to campus leaders: Students: Leilani Domingo, Alex Austin, Games Garcia, Myles Newble, Isenia Frefoso, and staff, Trey Downey, Director of Student Life, Isabel Manzanarez, Assistant Director of Student Life, Gabriel Simon, Manager of Operations, Alex Zappe, Director of Campus Safety, and community leader Chief Matt Smith, Grand Junction Police Department, for their exceptional work during the week of March 27, 2025 and their example in personifying the CMU values of Love, Dignity, Courage, Humility, Resilience, Curiosity & Power.

Following the adoption of the first resolution, President Marshall introduced a second **Human Scale University Champion Award for April 2025**, which was presented to Jody Diers in recognition of her many contributions to campus and extending a heartfelt congratulations on her retirement.

Continuing his report, President Marshall shared an update on his recent international travel and thanked Michelle Quinn for leading in his absence. He introduced Alex Zappe, Director of Campus Safety and Dr. Roberto Montoya, Vice President for Student Services. He also talked about an upcoming announcement that will be made next week regarding an Executive Director for the Davis School of Business. He also shared about the upcoming Maverick Meat Up event and Rodeo Week kick off event that will occur next week. He also highlighted Senator Hickenlooper's Townhall event occurring at Asteria as well as other civic forum events. He shared his recent experience speaking at the Colorado Forum event with other presidential colleagues. He also elevated the upcoming Holocaust Awareness week and shared about the importance of that work.

FACULTY TRUSTEE: Dr. Brian Parry shared about the March 27th events and the experience and contributions of the faculty on that day especially highlighting the faculty support of the students. He highlighted the need for additional programming and education related to the implications in the classroom when events such as the speaker on the 27th occur. He also shared that the Free Speech and Civil Discourse committee have invited a professor from CU Boulder to speak during Holocaust Awareness Week. He shared that the Climate Survey data is going to be presented to faculty and staff on April 21st. An updated attendance policy has been approved by Faculty Senate. Dr. Hendricks is working on the handbook revisions and has engaged faculty for their feedback on the suggested revisions. Lastly, he shared that a proforma is being developed about faculty overload compensation for teaching online vs. in person.

STUDENT TRUSTEE: Kylie Graham spoke to the student aspect of the events of March 27th and highlighted the values that were embodied in their response. She shared that there is talk amongst the students to continue Unity Fest as an annual event. She also shared upcoming events on campus such as the spring concert and Pinyon Palooza, Run for Ricky & Day of Rugby (an event honoring the late Andy Smith). She highlighted the Nursing Club traveling the Panama to serve this spring and shared that CMU is ranked #1 in the practical nursing program nationwide. She introduced Lindsey Schultz who is running for Student Trustee and currently serves president of the Student Ambassadors as well as president a sorority on campus. Lastly, she shared about her internship and expressed her appreciation and gratitude for what the Board does to keep tuition and fees low for students.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Fry asked for consideration of the items on the consent agenda:

1. Personnel
2. Transitional Retirement
3. Board Calendar 2025-2026
4. Committee Appointments

Trustee Sekharan motioned for approval and Trustee Iwaniczko MacLeod seconded. The consent agenda items were approved unanimously.

REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS EMERITUS FACULTY: Chad Middleton, AVP of Academic Affairs for Faculty Success presented the recommendation for Emeritus Faculty. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the following candidates for emeritus status:

Dr. Richard Bell (CMU faculty since 2005)
Dr. Tim Hatten (CMU faculty since 1995)
Dr. Randy Phillis (CMU faculty since 1992)
Dr. Elizabeth Bowles Sharp (CMU faculty since 2011)
Dr. William Wright (CMU faculty since 2001)

Trustee Iwaniczko MacLeod recommended granting Emeritus status and Trustee Buck seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STUDENT SHOWCASE: Chad Middleton, AVP of Academic Affairs for Faculty Success gave a presentation on the Student Showcase event that will occur on Friday, May 2, 2025.

CAPITAL PROJECTS: Derek Wagner, Chief of Staff and Vice President of External Relations gave a report on the status of CMU Capital Projects.

ATHLETICS: Joan McDermott gave a presentation on CMU Athletics and the status of collegiate sports. She also introduced the Coach and student athletes who are on the CMU Cross Country Ski Team who recently won nationals.

LUNCH: *At noon, the Board recessed for lunch and were joined by the Admissions team and student Ambassadors who gave a presentation on the Ambassador program.*

STUDENT SERVICES ENROLLMENT: Jody Diers, Vice President for Student Services introduced Kim Medina, VP of Enrollment Management and Whitney Bonner, Director of Admissions along with Lindsey Campbell, Executive Director of Financial Aid, Advising and Enrollment Management, who gave an Enrollment Analysis update.

HOUSING & COMPETITIVE PRICING: Jody Diers, Vice President for Student Services introduced Emily Bollinger, Director of Residence Life, who gave an update on CMU housing including off housing resources as well as competitive pricing model.

STUDENT FEE PRESENTATION - Trey Downey, Director of Student Life & Leilani Domingo, ASG President presented on the student fee recommendation that will be made as a part of the proposed budget at the May board meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT, BUDGET AND COMPENSATION: Michelle Quinn, Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented the Treasurer’s Report. President Marshall and VP Quinn also gave the board an update on the budget planning including a presenting information related to compensation planning.

MARKETING MOMENT: David Ludlam, Vice President for Communications shared a Marketing update and highlighted the “These Hands,” campaign for CMU Tech. He also introduced a video titled, “Life in the Trades” featuring Coach Brandon Edwards and recent graduate Isaiah Solomon, who launched a local business doing mobile mechanic work in the community. Bronson Henriques, videographer, produced the video.

CENTURY PROJECT: Robin Brown, VP of Development and CEO of CMU Foundation, gave an overview and update on the planning for the CMU 100-year celebration.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no additional business to be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Iwaniczko MacLeod motioned to adjourn. Trustee Buck seconded the motion. Chair Fry adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.