

Advisory Council Meeting Follow-Up Template Response - Attendees

Dear :

Thank you for joining my Cabinet and me at our meeting on May 19. We are excited about the progress on our key initiatives and your advice along the way has been constructive and meaningful. I appreciate your support as we continue to transform our campus and academic programs to serve the students of the 21st century generation.

On September 18, I hope you can join us for our grand challenge event at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, including a VIP lunch with keynote speaker Bill Nye. We will provide details to you later this week.

My campus strategic goals are student success, enhancing the reputation of CU-Boulder, and developing new sources of revenue. All our efforts on campus must support these three goals.

Over the next year, we will drive forward on the initiatives that support these goals and which we reviewed at our meeting:

Retention: With our new student welcome and improvements to advising, we are able to customize the CU-Boulder experience for our students. Using smart and “on-demand” tools, we can move quickly to address questions and concerns and move students towards a more personal engagement with communities of interests and meaningful engagement with a responsible adult interested in the student’s success. We will keep you up-to-date on the rollout of our new student welcome as a key tool to increase retention.

Entrepreneurial Initiatives: Dean Phil Weiser has spearheaded the coalescing of the successful, if disparate, entrepreneurial activities across our academic programs. From the college of Music to Engineering, to our Business School, our deans support often grassroots efforts of innovation and design thinking. As the deans collaborate across the campus, the entrepreneurial mindset gains traction and meaning for our students who by all accounts won’t be looking for but creating their own careers once they leave CU-Boulder.

College of Media, Communication and Information: Transitional Dean Chris Braider, Founding Dean Lori Berger and new chair Leysia Palen demonstrate the collaborative and innovative leadership required of a “start-up” college. The first new college at CU-Boulder in fifty years, these leaders offer a vision of an exciting future not only for the campus but for our students. As Professor Palen discussed, the workforce of the future will require everyone to understand and work with vast amounts of data. CMCI will require our students at the bachelor and masters level to have empirical, computational, legal and critical understandings of all things digital, especially with software, hardware and algorithms. Students will know how to build good hardware, deploy technology and measure its impact. I believe these leaders will take the world by storm with this start-up college and in turn our students will be leaders in the 21st century workforce.

The Grand Challenge: Last year, you challenged us to think big around the Grand Challenge. Over the last year Dean Steve Leigh and CIRES Director Waleed Abdalati led a campus-wide

effort to define that challenge. As Director Abdalati stated, our intent is that the grand challenge will bring the university future returns in student success, reputation and revenue. It's an integrating opportunity for the campus, and a chance to influence public policy.

Five proposals emerged from the campus-wide discussion each building around our strengths in aerospace and space research:

1. Sustainable space to address the very real issue of space debris and future space operations;
2. Integrated and remote sensing systems, integrating earth observations in a collective framework to attack societal problems from multiple angles;
3. Earth Lab, a big data effort to use the currently unrealized potential of data collected from space;
4. Water, ensuring its availability and access; and
5. Exploration of space.

We will capitalize on our strong partnerships with industry and our federal labs to advance the grand challenge.

Over the summer, we will continue to refine the concept into a unified effort that will build on our research strengths in space and how our ability to function in space has transformed our lives. These efforts will culminate in a public event this fall.

I appreciate your input and feedback on these key initiatives and look forward to our continued collaboration to make CU-Boulder strong.

Sincerely,

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