



UNIVERSITY OF
NORTHERN
COLORADO

SENATE ACTION FORM

Senate Action Number: 1275

Subject: Revisions to Funding Priorities Guidelines

Reference to Senate Minutes Dated: 4/6/26

Senate Action

MOTION: Adopt the revisions to Funding Priorities Guidelines

VOTE: Motion approved with one abstention

Response Requested:

- ☐ Approval for placement in University Catalog, Undergraduate and Graduate
- ☐ Approval for placement in University Regulations
- ☒ Recommendation to Board for placement in Board Policy Manual
- ☐ None (sent as information item)
- ☐ Other action requested/comments: _____

Harmony Newman Digitally signed by Harmony
Newman
Date: 2026.04.13 15:23:44 -06'00'

4/13/2026

Faculty Senate Chair

Date

Administrative Review of Senate Action (unnecessary for information items):

- ☒ Reviewed by Finance & Administration Check ☐ if comments are attached.
- ☒ Reviewed by General Counsel. Check ☐ if comments are attached.

Presidential Action:

- ☒ Approve Approval pending attached modification request
- ☐ Reject
- ☐ Return to Senate for discussion/modification (comments attached)

05/28/2026

President/Designated Administrative Officer

Date

Date of Board approval (if applicable): 06/12/2026

**PLEASE RETURN SIGNED ORIGINAL AND ATTACHMENT TO THE FACULTY SENATE OFFICE:
CARTER HALL 2004, CAMPUS BOX 75.**

Faculty.Senate@unco.edu

FACULTY SENATE POLICY PROPOSAL/MOTION

Subject: Revisions to Funding Priorities Guidelines

Originator/Date: Salary Equity Committee / November 17, 2025

Placement(s): BPM 1-1-201

Amended by Administration and introduced to FSEC on 4/14/2025

Referred to SEC by FSEC on 4/14/2025

Amended by Administration in 6/2025

Reviewed by SEC on 8/25/2025 and 9/8/2025 (SEC Subcommittee creation)

Reviewed by SEC Subcommittee on 9/29/2025, 10/8/2025 and 10/20/2025

Reviewed by SEC on 11/3/2025

Reviewed by on Codification on 11/5/2025

Reviewed and approved by SEC on 11/17/2025 and sent to Faculty Senate

Approved by Faculty Senate on November 24, 2025

Returned to the Faculty Senate for further revision

Reviewed by SEC Subcommittee on 01/22/2026 and 02/11/2026

Reviewed by SEC on 02/23/2026

Reviewed by Codification on 2/25/2026

Reviewed and approved by SEC on 3/9/2026

Motion: Adopt the revisions to Funding Priorities Guidelines

Purpose/Rationale: To revise the Funding Priorities Guidelines to ensure continued emphasis on instruction, faculty support, and student success while adapting to evolving financial and structural realities. The revisions preserve the intent of the original policy—to protect academic and instructional priorities within a changing fiscal environment—while clarifying expectations for transparency and shared governance in budget reporting.

Proposed Language: See below



Part 2 – Governance

PROPOSED CHANGES

1-1-201 Board of Trustees (BOT) [See C.R.S. Section 23-40-101 et. Seq].

The ~~BOT of the University is an entity charged by the~~ Colorado General Assembly ~~as the~~ has determined that the Board of Trustees (BOT) is the official and final governing authority of the University. The BOT reserves all rights, powers, and privileges attendant to that authority except as specifically delegated ~~herein. Where t~~The BOT ~~has delegated authority to the President or to other University employees or agents, and regardless of whether that authority has been further sub-delegated, the BOT~~ reserves the right to amend, modify, rescind or adopt any action taken by ~~such employee or agent a~~ ~~delegee or sub-delegee~~ prior to it becoming a final BOT action ~~of the BOT.~~

1-1-201(1) Board of Trustees' By-Laws. The BOT shall adopt and maintain by-laws for the orderly conduct of BOT business. The by-laws may be amended or modified from time to time as the BOT sees fit. It is the BOT responsibility, with the assistance of the Office of the President, to assure the by-laws are in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations and executive orders, including without limitation the Colorado open meetings and open records acts. If at any time a conflict is found to exist between the by-laws and the requirements of law, the law shall control and the offending provision of the by-laws shall be modified or repealed as necessary to comport with the law.

1-1-201(2) Student and Faculty Trustees. Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes, one trustee shall be an elected member of the student body who is a full-time junior or senior at the University of Northern Colorado. Their term of office shall be one year, beginning July 1. This position shall be advisory, without the right to vote. They shall have resided in the state of Colorado for no fewer than three years prior to their election. The faculty trustee shall be a member of the faculty at large at the University of Northern Colorado, elected by other members of the faculty at large for a term of one year, beginning July 1. This position shall be advisory, without the right to vote.

1-1-201(3) Presidential Search. The selection of the President of the University

is a function and responsibility of the BOT. The BOT will seek the advice of faculty, staff, students and friends of the University in identifying and evaluating presidential candidates. The BOT will establish guidelines and procedures for a presidential search as needed.

1-1-201(4) Budget Process. ~~The~~ BOT shall annually adopt and administer a budget in conformance with the following requirements:

- (a) The proposed budget for each fiscal year shall be summarized by the Administration and compared to the **University** Funding Priority Guidelines set forth in 1-1-201(5) when the proposed budget is presented to the BOT for consideration~~;~~.
- (b) ~~significant variations from the funding priorities guidelines must be identified and justified by the administration during the budgetary process, and approved by the BOT as a part of the final budget document;~~The administration shall provide a comprehensive expenditure report to the BOT at its summer meeting. The administration shall also share and present this report to the Faculty Senate at the start of the following Fall Semester. This report shall detail expenditures by functional expense category as defined by Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) for the proposed budget. The President's report shall include a statement detailing the percentage of the budget spent in each spending category and an explanation for any increase or decrease in these percentages compared to previous years. Particular emphasis shall be placed on the percentages spent on "Instruction" and any changes in this category from prior years.
- (c) The College of Osteopathic Medicine's expenditures shall be reported separately, while its funding sources are separate from the primary institutional budget.
- (d) ~~the administration shall report to the BOT during its fall meeting each year, expenditures by functional category during the past fiscal year. The actual expenditure should be compared to the original budget and the Funding Priorities Guidelines set forth in 1-1-201(5);~~
- (e) ~~(d) during the budget preparation and its administration during the fiscal year~~~~t~~The President is directed to ~~take~~ prioritize all reasonable measures to ~~prevent the practice of forward funding and running deficit accounts. At the close of each fiscal year the President will report to the BOT any University accounts that retain a negative balance more~~

~~than thirty (30) days after the close of the fiscal year, ensure the mitigation of financial risk factors and commitment to the long-term financial health of the institution.~~

1-1-201(5) University Funding Priorities Guidelines. The University's mission is to serve as a comprehensive institution offering baccalaureate programs and specialized graduate education. All budgeting decisions must align with and actively support the University's academic mission, values, vision, strategic priorities and objectives. The fiscal year budget shall conform to the following guidelines. ~~Variations may be approved by the BOT pursuant to 1-1-201(4).~~

Instruction	55.00%
Research	1.25%
Public Service	0.10%
Academic Support	14.75%
Student Services	7.00%
Institutional Support	10.25%
Operation & Maintenance of Plant	8.25%
Scholarships & Fellowships	3.30%
Transfers	0.10%

- (a) **The principles and processes guiding resource allocation shall be transparent.** The President shall ensure that the budgeting process solicits input from and provides feedback to appropriate stakeholders, including the Faculty Senate, Professional Administrative Staff Council, Classified Staff Council, and the Student Government Association. Transparency will be enhanced through stakeholder meetings, publicly accessible reports, and regular open forums.
- (b) **The budget promotes responsible, prudent, and sustainable stewardship of resources.** Decisions shall ensure a balanced budget is maintained, except in circumstances approved by BOT.
- (c) **Resource allocation decisions shall be data-informed.** Budget decisions shall be made using accurate and relevant data, ensuring that resource allocation is both strategic and evidence-based. Financial planning shall take a multi-year view to anticipate future challenges and opportunities. Budgeting outcomes shall be regularly reviewed and assessed against strategic objectives to inform future budgeting processes.

(d) **The administration shall prioritize expenditures as stated in this section.** Instruction, research, employee support, and student services necessary for student success and well-being shall be the University's budgetary priorities.

- I. **Instruction:** Instruction remains the University's core function and is essential to fulfilling its academic mission and serving students. Annual budgets must demonstrate a sustained commitment to fair and equitable compensation, the quality of academic programs, and student success. Investment in the faculty who contribute to teaching and learning is an investment in students.
- II. **Student Services:** The budget shall support activities and employees that enhance students' well-being, sense of belonging, and intellectual, cultural, and social development.
- III. **Institutional Support and Infrastructure:** The budget shall maintain essential resources for academic support, institutional operations, facilities, and other functions critical to support the University's instructional and student services mission.

Policy History

1-1-201 BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT).

Subsections 1-1-201(4) and 1-1-201(5) amended (November 2025)

Subsection 1-1-201(2) Student and Faculty Trustees amended (March 2025)

Section 1-1-201 Board of Trustees amended (May 2020)

Subsection 1-1-201(2) Student and Faculty Trustees amended (May 2020)

Subsection 1-1-201(3) Presidential Search amended (May 2020)

Subsection 1-1-201(4) Budget Process amended (May 2020)

Subsection 1-1-201(5) University Funding Priorities amended (May 2020)

1-1-203 PRESIDENT.

Section 1-1-203 amended (December 2023)

1-1-204 UNIVERSITY COUNSEL.

Section 1-1-204 amended (December 2023)



Part 2 – Governance

CLEAN COPY

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Subsection 1-1-201(4) Budget Process amended (May 2020)
Subsection 1-1-201(5) University Funding Priorities amended (May 2020)

1-1-203 PRESIDENT.

Section 1-1-203 amended (December 2023)

1-1-204 UNIVERSITY COUNSEL.

Section 1-1-204 amended (December 2023)

Modification Request
Senate Action 1275: Revisions to Funding Priority Guidelines

Requested by: Andy Feinstein, Dale Pratt, Tamra English

We cannot comply with item 1-1-201(4)(b) as written.

For the Funding Priorities Guidelines document, section 1-1-201(4)(b), please change the following:

From: The administration shall provide a comprehensive expenditure report to the BOT at its **Summer** meeting.

To: The administration shall provide a comprehensive expenditure report to the BOT at its **Fall** meeting.

Also, the subsequent sentence will need to be revised:

From: The administration shall also share and present this report to the Faculty Senate **at the start of the following Fall Semester**.

To: The administration shall also share and present this report to the Faculty Senate **at the start of the following Spring Semester**.