

Faculty Advisory Committee to the Auraria Board
Meeting Agenda
9/22/2025, 1:30pm to 3:00pm
Senate Chambers (Tivoli Student Union)

In Attendance:

Mike Jacobs	MSU Denver Representative
Zsuzsa Balogh	MSU Denver Representative
Adam Glick	CCD Representative
Mark Broyles	CCD Representative
Katy Divittorio	CU Denver Representative
Diana White	CU Denver Representative
Colleen Walker	CEO, Auraria Campus
Lulu Lantzy	Staff, Auraria Campus
Alyssa Nilemo	Staff, Auraria Campus
Sandra Zuniga	Staff, Auraria Campus

Agenda Items:

1:30pm Approval of minutes

Adam Glick asked for a motion to approve the September 9, 2025, meeting as presented. Mike Jacobs motioned, and Diana White seconded. Zsuzsa abstained. The motion passed.

1:35pm Colleen Walker on Campus Updates and Highlights

Colleen Walker, CEO of Auraria Campus, joined the meeting as requested by FACAB to provide campus updates and highlights. She began by emphasizing the importance of FACAB as reflected by her ongoing engagement with the group since she joined Auraria in 2019.

Colleen shared an overview of AHEC's strategic plan and the Campus Framework Plan (formerly the Master Plan), which took two years to complete and reaffirmed the mission of supporting higher education by serving students, staff, and faculty.

She also addressed the reality of significant state budget cuts, underscoring the need for a vibrant 24/7 campus that is capable of generating revenue to sustain its mission.

Several major campus projects were discussed. As part of the Ballfield Project, the Summit House broke ground roughly 10 days ago. The building will feature mass timber construction with ground-floor retail, food, and beverage options, along with the Classroom to Career Hub and student housing above. Located across from Ball Arena, which hosts about 240 events each year, the project is strategically positioned to serve both campus and community. With Denver's housing costs now among the highest of U.S. cities between the coasts, the Ballfield Project will be a critical step forward, providing a planned 10 floors of student housing as well as 330 units of affordable housing for faculty, staff, and community members.

Colleen also shared amazing news about the Early Learning Center (ELC) campaign, which has already raised \$10 million toward its \$15 million goal, with significant contributions from the Merage Family Foundation and the Anschutz Foundation. In addition, she highlighted the recent groundbreaking of the Safety Campus Center, a project that has been six years in the making. This new facility will serve as the first 24/7 student space across all three institutions and will include classrooms for Criminal Justice programs. The Auraria Campus Police Department, which has operated out of a repurposed hallway since 1999, will also relocate to this new facility.

Another significant development is the board's authorization of a ground lease for the Hispanic Latino Museum, led by Patricia Barela Rivera and Ramona Martinez. The museum will address Colorado's lack of statewide representation of Hispanic and Latino culture. While initial discussions considered including the museum as part of the Ballfield Project, community feedback strongly favored a standalone site. It will be located between the Springhill Hotel and 11th Street, with \$3

million raised to date toward the \$20 million goal. Once 60 percent of funds are secured, outreach will expand to institutions and the broader community.

FACAB members requested an update on the ongoing KPMG study. Colleen explained that the study is evaluating the Auraria Campus model for operational efficiencies, governance, and coordination, focused on the services supported by the state appropriated portion of the general fund. She emphasized the financial savings generated by the shared campus model and noted its continued effectiveness, drawing comparisons to similar models such as the Claremont Colleges. Faculty asked specifically about how faculty perspectives would be included in the study by their institutions and requested clear points of contact for each institution.

In closing, Colleen reaffirmed her commitment to the shared model and highlighted the dedication of the AHEC team, whose work reflects the mission of collaboration and service. She pointed to the example of Auraria's Chief of Police, Jason, whose educational journey began with an associate's degree at CCD, continued with a bachelor's degree from MSU Denver, and culminated in a master's from CU Denver. Jason, she noted, is an Auraria community member first and a police chief second, embodying the spirit of the campus. Colleen concluded by reminding the group that the Auraria team works hard every day to support the campus, and that when the community leans into the shared model, it achieves success together.

2:00pm AHEC 101: Campus Food Strategy

As part of the AHEC 101 series, Alyssa Nilemo, Deputy Chief of Activation, joined the meeting to provide an overview of her role, her teams, and current work on the campus food strategy. Alyssa oversees the King Center, Auxiliary Services, and Events, and much of her recent focus has been on food options and long-term strategies for dining on campus.

She explained that historically, most food vendors were concentrated in the Tivoli Student Union, with CU Denver contracting with Sodexo and MSU Denver partnering with Dazbog. While some small businesses have maintained a presence, others exited due to financial or operational challenges. Current strong performers include Subway, Los Molinos, Ipie, Intermission, and S'onos. The pandemic presented additional difficulties, leading to reduced vendor revenue and further departures. Some long-standing businesses stepped in to occupy multiple vacant spaces, which helped sustain operations during that period but is not viewed as a sustainable, long-term solution. One of the key challenges, Alyssa noted, is when a single vendor occupies several spaces—if they leave, multiple locations go dark simultaneously.

To address these issues, AHEC has been working on a more dynamic pipeline of food options. Food trucks have been rotated onto campus as a way to test concepts and gather real-time feedback from students. A major success story is Ichigo Matcha, which began as a popular 16th Street pop-up before joining the campus food truck rotation. After strong positive response from the campus community, Ichigo Matcha transitioned into a brick-and-mortar location offering ramen and boba, which has since become extremely popular with students.

FACAB members inquired about the status of Quadside Tavern. Alyssa explained that a partnership with Peak Beverage has enabled greater flexibility and creativity, allowing the venue to host engaging programming such as patio activations, game nights, karaoke, and community gatherings that better serve the campus community.

During discussion, Diana asked about capturing post-Ball Arena event traffic, noting that Tivoli Brewery had become too niche in its appeal. Alyssa emphasized Quadside Tavern's renewed focus on quality service and creating fuller experiences to meet this need. Adam asked about the existence of a food committee, and Alyssa confirmed that one was established in 2024 to provide up-to-date feedback on dining options. Mark suggested that food trucks along the

“learning loop” identified in the Campus Framework Plan could increase visibility and strengthen engagement. In response to questions about potential food deserts, Alyssa emphasized that careful planning is underway to ensure that all areas of campus are served, with opportunities under consideration for spaces such as the Library and the Confluence Building.

Mike Jacobs raised a question about the proposed new Broncos stadium and its potential impact on campus food offerings. Adam also asked about the possibility of adopting a single-source provider. Alyssa acknowledged that Sodexo remains an option under review, but she stressed the importance of supporting local, BIPOC, and women-owned businesses, noting that larger providers often prioritize national brands. As part of this evaluation, data from Ichigo Matcha’s performance will be compared with Subway’s in six months to help inform future decisions. Lulu underscored the complexity of balancing the diverse interests and priorities involved, while Mark commended the thoughtful and deliberate approach that has guided the process so far.

2:30pm ABOD agenda review

Adam Glick reviewed the Sept ABOD agenda items: Denver Water Easement, a legislative update, a Tivoli Reimagined Update, and Ballfield update and AELC.

2:45pm Zsuzsa raised concerns regarding the left turn from 7th Street onto Walnut Street toward the 7th Street Garage.

Faculty also expressed challenges in accessing the garage from I-25, specifically the need for a dedicated green left-turn arrow at the intersection. While this issue falls under city jurisdiction rather than campus control, it will be formally reported to the City of Denver.

- **Next Steps:**
 - Zsuzsa will draft the request.

- Robin, from the Auraria Campus Planning team and campus liaison to the city, will submit the information to the appropriate city contacts.
- Mark recommended reviewing public traffic records, as data will help strengthen the case.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m. The rest of the topics will be discussed at the next meeting.

- Sustainability (Michael)
- Voting rights update (Adam and Diana)
- Website tour (Adam)