CU Presidential Priorities

The CU President holds an important and powerful position. This position comes with many responsibilities and functions. It thus becomes important that the CU President’s Search Committee and Regents focus on certain priorities when searching, selecting, and hiring the appropriate/best candidate. As workers committed to the public good of our state through higher education, we would like to see the following in the next CU President.

- **The CU President must have an academic history or background beyond administrative roles.** Candidates with political backgrounds must have, in their political activities, supported key CU priorities, such as DEI, academic integrity, and the value of a public education.

- **The CU president should be committed to Public Funding for Higher Education.** This person should understand the mission and importance of public institutions in higher education and should be willing to advocate to Colorado state officials the need to enhance public funding for the state’s higher education institutions. Furthermore, this person should understand Colorado politics so as to better prioritize CU’s public mission, and is willing to make a public case for abolishing TABOR given how it undermines our ability to sufficiently fund public education (as well as other public goods).

- **The CU President should display a commitment to diversity and inclusion initiatives** by, for example, supporting anti-racism initiatives, eliminating CCI as a vendor until they pay prison laborers at least the state minimum wage, advocating for improved accessibility to higher education for in-state first generation learners and persons of color, and divesting funds from CU Police so as to provide more scholarships/grants, enhance mental wellness support for students and increase pay for all students workers. Additionally the president should advocate for increased funding for programs aimed at recruiting staff and faculty from historically underrepresented backgrounds, and programming that supports their retention. This person should not be affiliated with racist or anti-LGBTQ+ movements/causes.

- **The CU President must be committed to an actual shared governance model** where students, faculty, and staff have meaningful decision-making power over our university. As such, this person must also be **committed to academic freedom of speech** and the full range of academic inquiry that accompanies such freedom.

- **The CU President should be committed to working in support of different sustainability and environmental initiatives, including the divestment of CU finances from fossil fuel investments.**

UCW Colorado recognizes that it isn't only the candidates, but also the process, that needs changes. Searches for CU’s next President, as well as future top administration hires, ought to be transparent and include mechanisms for students, faculty, and staff to have a say. At a bare minimum this requires multiple finalists who can be publicly vetted and engaged with before any decision is made, and a real commitment to democratic principles that includes, particularly for selecting the president, binding votes from students, faculty, and staff.