

Proposal for new CU Connections Section: *Faculty Voices*

Description

The Communications Committee of the CU Faculty Council (FC3) is proposing a new regular section in CU Connections, *Faculty Voices*. This section will feature **editorials written by faculty** on topics of potential interest to the CU Connections' audience. The articles will be **approximately 750 words**. These are not letters to the editor or other types of short comment pieces; CU Connections already solicits and accepts these types of submissions. The articles can address a wide range of topics, but authors should show the relationship to faculty, staff, students, higher education, etc. Some of the potential topics include academic career timelines for new parents; personnel policies that support work/life balance; methods for attracting and retaining diverse faculty; how community issues, e.g. the opioid crisis, are affecting universities; four-year nursing degrees at community colleges; the CU Regents' proposal for a 3-year online degree; creating more sustainable campuses, etc.

Pending feedback on this proposal from CU system and campuses, **we may offer a small stipend** to recognize the faculty member's time and effort above their typical service requirement, especially if the article required additional research and is outside their discipline.

Purpose:

The purpose of this new section is to generate interesting and informative dialog across campuses about topics of interest to faculty. A goal of the FC3 is to make CU Connections a primary communications vehicle in which faculty have a voice, participate in shared governance discussions, and feel a sense of ownership. *Faculty Voices* can also offer faculty an opportunity to break out of their disciplinary professional constraints and reach a wider audience.

Implementation Process:

FC3 members are seeking feedback from faculty, communications staff, and leadership on each campus, and from the system executives. FC3 members with CU Communications staff are presenting to each campus assembly at their April meetings. CU Communications staff are contacting their campus counterparts. FC3 will revise the guidelines based on this feedback. **The goal launch date is Fall 2018.**

Pending feedback, we may solicit specific articles from faculty members the committee identifies with expertise in the specified topic. Once *Faculty Voices* becomes a regular feature, the call and list of topics will be open to all faculty interested in submitting an article for consideration.

Guidelines

Article Format

- 750-1000 words
- Submission should be original work not previously submitted to, accepted by, or published by another publication, print or online.
- Clear, informal writing, free of jargon and accessible to nonspecialists. Think along the lines of newspaper op-eds, not essays for scholarly journals.
- When appropriate, content should make use of web technologies, e.g. hyperlinks to relevant material (facts, figures, news, etc.), embedded polls; and request comments.

Submission and editing process

Authors should submit a short paragraph to the Connections editor that states their name, position, department, and campus; the proposed topic and its relevance; and their perspective or argument. CU Connections staff will review the proposals to determine their fit for Connections.

Once accepted, authors will have 2 weeks to submit their article. If the author needs more time or the topic content is not tied to a current topic in the news, etc., the deadline may be extended.

Articles will go through editorial review per the CU Connections guidelines for content, length, grammar, audience, etc. Connections staff will work with authors to revise the article as necessary.

Content

Topics should be **timely** and relevant, yet have a shelf-life. Ideally they will attract a counterpoint. General topic areas include, but are not limited to:

- local people and issues rooted at CU – or broader: pertaining to higher education in Colorado, the United States or the world.
- Legislative or policy issues (but not overtly partisan, political or personal attacks)
- Academic or campus culture
- Tenure and promotion
- Campus-specific issues that may be relevant in the future to other campuses
- Topics being addressed by system task forces
- Health and wellbeing
- Professional challenges in research, publishing, teaching and service work
- Faculty research that may be of interest to CU Connections readers (and doesn't reproduce their research publicized in other CU communication vehicles)

SURVEY ON THE FACULTY VOICES PROPOSAL

1. I work on the following campus

Anschutz Boulder Colorado Springs Denver

2. I think *Faculty Voices* will help FC3 to achieve its goals and will be a valuable contribution to Connections.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

3. I might be interested in submitting an article to *Faculty Voices*.

Strongly Disagree Disagree Neutral Agree Strongly Agree

4. Please provide feedback on whether or not to offer a stipend, including how much, or some other form of recognition

A. ____ I do not think it is necessary

B. ____ I do not have an opinion on the stipend

C. ____ I like the idea of the stipend and suggest the following amount:

a. ____ \$50

b. ____ \$100

c. ____ \$150

d. ____ \$200

e. ____ \$250

f. ____ Other amount: \$_____

D. Instead of a stipend, consider offering one or more of the following (check the ones that interest you): a certificate of recognition ____; a letter for the author's dossier ____; an annual lunch for the authors and CU System leadership ____; other suggestion(s):

6. Feel free to provide additional comments below or on the backside.