METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY℠ OF DENVER

# President's Cabinet Agenda
**May 15, 2025**
**11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

## HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY ITEMS

- **Federal & State Advocacy:** President Davidson shared updates from D.C. on key issues impacting higher ed, including Medicaid's potential funding impact, student loans, and work-study programs. State-level attention on campus antisemitism is being monitored.
- **Budget & Strategic Planning:** Finalizing the FY25 budget; updates to the Strategic Plan monitoring process will provide improved data and alignment, with new dashboards and planning tools underway.
- **Online Student Success:** Online programs serve 1,200+ students, with increased retention and engagement due to expanded coaching, wellness initiatives, and scholarships.
- **Policy Decisions:** Cabinet approved Naming Rights, sunset of the Professional Development Policy, and updates to Supplemental Pay. First read of the Anti-Hazing Policy will return in August for a vote.
- **Student Parent Support – FamilyU Launch:** MSU Denver joins the FamilyU cohort to enhance support for student parents through targeted data, policy reviews, and community-building, with a goal to be Colorado's top choice for parenting students.

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**I. Approval of minutes**

• From April 24th, 2025

**II. Roadrunner Shoutout Awards (11:10 AM-11:20 AM)** –Janine Davidson., President

- Faculty winner: J. Renee Trombley, Ph.D.
- Staff winner: Emily Burnell
- Student winners: Camille Rawinski

**III. President's Update (11:00 AM-11:10 AM) –** Janine Davidson, President

- President Davidson and Kaycee traveled to Washington, D.C. to advocate for higher education funding. Discussions included:
    - Medicaid funding concerns and potential impacts on higher education budgets.
    - Federal focus on student loans and work-study programs.
- Most updates are also included in Kaycee's announcements.

- The Colorado Advisory Committee has approved an examination of antisemitism on campuses. No outreach has been made to MSU Denver yet; updates will follow.
- Three federal grants have been discontinued. Impacted parties will be notified.
- Final budget planning is underway with Andrew and Jim.
- Strategic Plan monitoring is being restructured for improved data tracking. Dr. Meredith Jeffers will provide details.
- Athletics update: Two new coaches welcomed-Katie Hooker Hooker (Women's Soccer) and Lint Kennedy (Men's Basketball).
- Appreciation for budget collaboration and continued support for compensation and professional development.
- Reminder: Second annual Community Collaboration Summit is in September.
- Leaders are encouraged to register/nominate participants for LAUNCH and LEAD programs by **August 20** via Workday.

**IV. Provost Update – (11:10-11:20) - Matt Makley,** Provost and executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

- Dr. Makley's first official Cabinet meeting as Provost.
- Celebrating commencement with deans and chairs.
- Expressive gratitude to the Provost's Office team for strategic budget work.
- Focused investments in retention efforts.
    - Recent academic events:
    - 15 honors students presented thesis projects.
- The 14th Annual Pomp-posium featured 100 student presenters, 250+ attendees.
- Housekeeping (from Erica Buckland):
- Academic policy pauses are an opportunity for review and simplification.
- ITS support has been invaluable for faculty-related data, helping prepare for accreditation.

**V. Strategy Update (11:20-11:30) -** Meredith Jeffers, Director of University Strategy

- Update on the evolution of strategic planning implementation.
- Completed work on Student Success Launch and Academic Affairs planning.
- Leadership confirmed for the steering committee and working groups.
- By next Cabinet:
    - Launch of three new resources.
    - Steering committee calendar and communication plan.
    - Dashboard by Dr. Ribble will consolidate strategic data.
- Open invitation for Cabinet members to join this work.

**VI. Online Student Retention Overview (11:30-11:45) –** Bridget Wetzel, Online Student Services Sr. Manager and Meredith Moore, Senior Online Student Success Coach.

**Overview of Online Student Success Program**

- 1,232 students currently enrolled in online programs.
- 75% are transfer students; 67% are 25+ years old.
- Offerings include 25 majors, 9 minors, and 4 certificates.

- $1.7 million in scholarships awarded.

**Key Challenges for Online Learners**

- Time management and balancing coursework.

**Why Students Choose MSU Denver Online**

- Flexibility and convenience.

**Program Development Timeline**

- 2020: Office expansion.
- 2023: Online scholarships and coaching model launched.
- 2024: Two new coaches hired.

**Community of Inquiry Framework**

- Social Presence
- Cognitive Presence
- Teaching Presence

**Support Components**

- First-Semester Seminar, 1:1 coaching, outreach initiatives (Wellness Wednesdays, newsletters).
- Student-centered coaching on study skills, time management, wellness, and goal setting.

**Student Seminar Feedback**

- Significant engagement improvements post-seminar.

**Retention Data**

- Positive increases in persistence from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024.

**Q&A**

**Q:** How are scholarships awarded?

**A:** Must be enrolled in an online program, have completed FAFSA/CASFA, maintain a 2.0+ GPA, and participate in a coaching session.

**VII. Second Read Policies: (11:45-12:00)**

- Naming Rights Policy- Vote to advance to BoT approval- Christine Marquez-Hudson, Vice President of University Advancement

- No questions or changes.
- Vote: All in favor. Advanced Board of Trustees (BoT).

- Professional Development Policy- Vote to Sunset and advance to BoT- Stacy Dvergsdal, Associate Vice President for Administration and Chief Human Resources Officer

- Not connected to tuition benefits.
- Vote**:** All in favor. Approved and advanced to BoT

- Supplemental Pay- Cath Kleier, Associate Vice President, Faculty Affairs

- Questions addressed regarding applicability to staff and pay limits (capped at 20% of annual salary).
- Clarification needed on language and approving authority.
- Vote: All in favor. Advanced with language updates.

**VIII. First Read Policies: (12:00-12:05)**

• Anti-Hazing policy- Taylor Tackett- Associate Vice President for Student Engagement and Wellness/Dean of Students

- Proposal to establish this as a President's Policy to uphold institutional values.
- Vote to take place in August.

**IX. FamilyU Presentation, Serving Students who are Parents (12:05-12:20) –** Steven Zeeh, Assistant Vice President for Health and Well-being. Kristen Lyons, Professor of Psychological Sciences. Taylor Tackett, Associate Vice President for Student Engagement and Wellness/Dean of Student.

**Supporting Student Parents at MSU Denver**

- Majority are students of color; often underserved.
- National trend: states like CA, OR, and TX mandating data collection.

**FamilyU 2024–2026 Cohort Participation**

- Focus on Data, Policy, People & Culture.
- Data: Collect beyond FAFSA, disaggregate student parent data.
- Policy: Review current and draft new supportive policies.
- People & Culture: Website launch, Day of Giving, and events in September (Student Parent Welcome & Bring Your Kids to College Day).
- Goal: Establish MSU Denver as Colorado's leading university for student parents.

- September is the month of Student Parent Awareness
- Help offered from TSAC and Athletics

**X. Shared Governance Updates (12:20 PM -12:30 PM)**

- TSAC: Food for finals events, and inauguration that were successful
- Staff Senate: Election results announced; preparing for July transition.
- Council of Chairs: No updates,
- Faculty Senate: Executive committee elected; leadership finalized.

**Adjournment**