

Academic Unit Guidance for Issuing Public Statements Using University Websites

Oct. 31, 2023

Dear Deans, Chairs, and Directors:

I am reaching out to offer guidance and support when faculty wish to issue a public statement using university websites.

The following guidelines are provided with input from Strategic Relations and Communications and are based upon discussions among campus leadership, and specifically among Provost Moore's academic affairs leadership team. They are intended to serve as a resource for unit-level academic leaders to consult when moments of public communication arise.

Academic guidance for issuing statements:

- University of Colorado Boulder leadership will not suppress free speech and will abide by the principles of [academic freedom](#).
- Statements issued in the name of an academic unit should reflect the opinion of the entire unit, not the views of an individual or a small subset of unit members. While those who do not want to sign onto statements and are concerned about retaliation have protections under existing university policies such as the [PRR](#) and [university discrimination and harassment policies](#), authors of a statement should also recognize the potential for power dynamics and social pressure to affect unit members' perceptions of being free to choose whether or not to endorse statements.
- A statement from an academic unit should be based on academic expertise, not personal opinion.
- Per [university policy](#), university IT resources must not be used for political campaigning, to harass and/or for commercial purposes.
- Consider that all public statements affect individuals and communities differently. Additionally, students may be impacted, and it is strongly advised that you consult with the Division of Student Affairs as a part of this process to gauge and prepare for possible impacts of a public statement. Student Affairs can be reached at studentaffairs@colorado.edu.
- Include a disclaimer that states: The statement does not reflect the viewpoint of the University of Colorado Boulder.
- To facilitate administrative awareness and advice before you issue a statement, consult with Strategic Relations and Communications and your dean's office. Strategic Relations and Communications can be reached at cunews@colorado.edu.

In recent years, we have seen our faculty, staff and students navigate significant challenges that arise when their scholarly or creative work receives public attention or criticism. [The Academic](#)

[Affairs Scholarship & Safety: A Guide for CU Boulder](#) is a recommended resource for our community as it engages these challenges.

Thank you for your continued leadership.

Katherine Eggert
Senior Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Assessment
Professor of English