

April 13, 2026 Town Hall FAQs

The following FAQs were developed based on the questions received during the April 13, 2026 Town Hall. All recommendations and feedback that were provided in the Q&A section of the Town Hall were shared with the Senior Leadership Team.

How much money have we wasted on the Differentiator and Healthy Campus initiatives?

Answer: The differentiator and healthy campus are about strategic alignment of priorities and our promise to our campus community and stakeholders of what we're committed to. We are not spending new money, rather we're strategically aligning how we spend money in support of our institutional priorities. Staff time and resources have been involved in soliciting feedback, building the process and identifying opportunities to refine existing and planned expenditures, but there isn't a line item in the budget for the differentiator or healthy campus initiatives.

I noticed recent System communications (such as the benefits emails) refer to our campus as "CU Colorado Springs" rather than UCCS. Can you share whether this reflects a System-level direction or conversation around the rebrand? (Robin)

Answer: The CU System has referred to UCCS as CU Colorado Springs since at least 2015 when the "[All Four Colorado](#)" campaign launched. Additionally CU system uses both CU Colorado Springs or the University of Colorado Colorado Springs in accordance with system brand and naming conventions. We continue to use UCCS and The University of Colorado Colorado Springs in our communications on campus and off campus.

I get the distinct impression that changing from UCCS to CU Colorado Springs (CUCS) is a decision that was made quite some time ago. Is this true, and if so, why are you soliciting feedback at all, if not to try to justify the decision after the fact?

Answer: Adopting the Block CU in the visual representation of our formal name is a concept that's come up a few times over the years. As we pursue a fresh strategic perspective in several areas of the university, it made sense to revisit our strategic identity. The university has been engaging in market research and soliciting feedback since Fall 2024 and is concluding it's research with the on-campus survey and focus groups. Learn more about this full process, including the research that has been conducted on the University Branding Project website. After all the feedback has been collected, information will be shared with the community along with decisions about how to move forward.

So, you are proposing a one time payment? Why can that be used to close the gap? What happens next year when we have to cut again?

Answer: The one-time payment is not being used to close the structural gap. It's a one-time investment to provide temporary support to faculty and staff. There's a clear distinction between one-time and ongoing funds. One-time funds can only be used once, they don't solve an ongoing problem. The gap itself is on-going and thus is being addressed through ongoing actions; reducing expenses, increasing enrollment, and growing revenue.

Why are we base funding the hold harmless amount when this is only for a few years and not ongoing?

Answer: We are base funding the hold harmless amount to provide short-term stability for colleges and students as we implement the tuition changes. At the same time, we're clear this is temporary and are planning for its phase-out. As that occurs, the ongoing revenue becomes available to support priorities like graduate and doctoral stipends and scholarships. This allows us to manage the transition in a controlled way while repositioning those resources for long-term academic investment.

When discussing the tuition rate increase in last week's UBAC meeting, Jeff said we will "hold harmless our students that will be impacted by that change." That was also included on the slide shown today. What exactly does that mean for current students?

Answer: When we say that we are "holding students harmless", this means students who are currently enrolled under the existing tuition structure will not be adversely impacted by the change to the new tuition model. Those students will continue to pay under the structure they originally enrolled in for a defined transition period. This approach is intentional and reflects our commitment to minimizing disruption for our current students while we move to a tuition model that is more clear, predictable, and sustainable for the future. We recognize that tuition changes can create anxiety, and "holding students harmless" is one way we are honoring our responsibility to them during this transition. The step up in cost for juniors and seniors is going away, so that cost had to be reallocated across all four years to be revenue neutral. This means a decrease for those taking junior and senior level classes and an increase for freshman and sophomore to make it even across all four years.

When the student/faculty/staff frustration attracts outside media, how is senior leadership preparing to deal with the fallout?

Answer: The university is taking a proactive and coordinated approach to communications as budget decisions move forward. Our focus will be on clear, transparent messaging that explains the context for these decisions, the principles guiding them, and how they align with the long-term health of the institution. UCCS's communications team has been working to coordinate university communications throughout this process. This includes proactive outreach to news

and media outlets before information is released, as well as responding quickly and consistently to media inquiries.

Communications and Marketing, in coordination with university leadership, will also provide timely updates, key messages, and media guidance to help ensure that information shared with the campus community and external audiences is accurate and consistent. When questions arise from the press, the university will respond by emphasizing our commitment to responsible stewardship, student success, and the long-term sustainability of UCCS.

We will also work to ensure that our communications reflect the broader vision for the university, including the Healthy Campus Initiative and the work underway to align resources with our strategic priorities. While budget adjustments are difficult, our goal is to communicate clearly about why these decisions.

When there are retirements this year, will these be swept as unfilled positions, or will they be able to go through the position committee for consideration to be filled?

Answer: They'll go through the normal review process. We're not automatically refilling or eliminating positions. Each one will be evaluated based on specific needs and priority. At the same time, we do have to close the gap, and one of the tools available to us is holding some positions vacant. Not every position will be filled, but every position will receive a thoughtful review.

What is the cost of the rebrand?

Answer: At this time, there is no additional base budget allocated specifically for a rebrand. The work being discussed aligns with existing marketing cycles, scheduled refreshes, and updates that were already planned. Our intent has been to evaluate whether we can thoughtfully leverage work that is already underway, rather than undertaking a traditional, largescale rebrand with significant new costs. Any future decisions will continue to be evaluated through that same lens of fiscal responsibility.

How much (and in what ways) has the campus already been financially supplemented by System?

Answer: Since Chancellor Sobanet has been in her role, President Saliman has provided more than \$24 million to support specific campus needs, above and beyond the UCCS general funding available to the campus. These funds have been used for targeted investments, for example: \$8 million to reduce the borrowing needed for the engineering building renovations which reduces the debt service payments saving the campus money on an ongoing basis. \$2.5 million has supported staffing for enrollment managers, student affairs and faculty affairs to boost student enrollment and retention efforts, which seek to lessen expense reductions in coming years.

About \$1.6 million has funded campus safety and mental health needs following the events of Feb. 16, 2024. And \$4.9 million has gone to the campus for needed investments around campus-led online learning.

But it is important to remember that no one-time funding from the system office can solve the multi-year challenge of closing the revenue and expense gap the campus is experiencing. In fact, prior spending of one-time funding as if it were ongoing, coupled with a decline in total student enrollment, is a major driver of the budget issues during the last decade. Only by reigning in expenses to match revenues and then growing campus revenues can the campus regain a healthy financial footing.