



COLORADO COLLEGE

Operational Governance 2025-2026 Year - End Highlights

Summary of accomplishments from Colorado College's Standing and Temporary Operational Groups

Overview

Throughout the 2025–2026 academic year, Colorado College's Operational Governance structure brought together faculty and staff from across the institution to address complex issues that require collaboration across departments and divisions.

Standing Operational Groups were focused on long-term institutional priorities. Their work included improving the student and family experience, guiding digital transformation, strengthening institutional risk management, advancing accessibility and belonging, coordinating campus events, and improving processes related to space and institutional resources.

In addition, Temporary Operational Groups were convened to address emerging institutional needs, including strengthening protections for minors participating in campus programs and developing recommendations related to academic freedom and freedom of expression.

Together, these groups are helping create more coordinated, transparent, and effective operational practices across the college.

Standing Operational Groups Key Areas of Progress

Campus Accessibility

- Campus accessibility priorities were identified to guide the group's work in the coming year.
- Areas of focus include accessible and wellness spaces, assistive technology resources, accessible documents and digital content, and accessibility considerations in capital projects.

- Opportunities were identified to improve campus-wide accessibility data and create easier ways for community members to report accessibility concerns.

College Events

- New planning tools and guidance were developed to help faculty and staff more effectively plan and coordinate campus events.
- A coordinated annual event submission process was established to reduce scheduling conflicts and improve planning for staffing, parking, logistics, and communications.
- Standard operating procedures were developed to clarify how campus event requests and approvals are managed.

Digital Transformation

- A cross-campus governance framework was established to coordinate technology planning, prioritization, and decision-making across the college.
- A centralized project intake and review process was developed to provide a consistent approach for evaluating and prioritizing technology initiatives.
- New governance structures were launched for IT Governance, ERP Optimization and Modernization, Data Governance, and Generative AI, creating greater transparency, coordination, and alignment between technology investments and institutional priorities.

Enterprise Risk Management

- Institutional risk assessments were completed with the Board of Trustees and college leadership to identify areas of shared concern and emerging priorities.
- Progress on previously identified institutional risks was documented, providing tangible examples of risk mitigation efforts.
- New risk themes were developed to better connect institutional risk management with divisional strategic planning.

Institutional Diversity, Equity & Accessibility Leadership (IDEAL)

- The Equity Audit process was developed and refined to strengthen the review of college policies and practices through an equity lens.
- The ADEI Planning and Evaluation Rubric was introduced across campus to support more inclusive planning and decision-making.
- The group contributed to policy reviews and supported implementation of the HEDS campus survey.

International People & Practices

- Cross-campus coordination was strengthened in response to changing immigration, visa, and international travel requirements.
- New guidance, procedures, and resources were developed to better support international students, scholars, employees, and travelers.
- The group collaborated with campus partners to strengthen off-campus travel guidance and institutional preparedness for emerging international risks.

Parent & Family Experience

- A comprehensive communications calendar was developed to provide families with timely information aligned with the student experience throughout the academic year.
- A consistent monthly newsletter structure was created to highlight key dates, student experiences, campus programs, and support resources.
- A Parent & Family Ambassador Program was proposed to create additional opportunities for families to engage with and support the CC community.

Space Governance

- A structured space request process was piloted through fall and spring review cycles.
- The pilot helped identify gaps in how space, funding, technology, furniture, and related resource requests are coordinated and approved.
- Work began on a centralized "front door" to make it easier for campus community members to identify and navigate the appropriate request process.

Student Success

- Incoming student communications were mapped across campus offices to identify gaps, overlaps, and opportunities for better coordination.
- Fellowship advising practices were documented and peer institutions identified for benchmarking and future improvements.
- The major declaration experience was reviewed from both student and institutional perspectives, including exploration of potential technology solutions.
- Work began to establish shared definitions for tracking student success outcomes, including retention and graduation.

Temporary Operational Groups Outcomes

Minors on Campus

- Developed a revised Minors on Campus Policy aligned with practices at peer institutions while allowing individual programs to create procedures appropriate to their activities.
- Implemented campus-wide background check requirements for employees and volunteers working with minors.
- Began developing program-specific training and implementation guidance to help departments understand and comply with the updated policy and establish appropriate operating procedures.

Freedom of Expression

- Developed an Academic Freedom Conversation Starter to facilitate campus-wide discussions, including working definitions, guiding principles, and case studies for exploring how academic freedom is understood across Colorado College.
- Began engaging faculty, staff, and students in structured conversations to gather perspectives and experiences that will inform a comprehensive report and recommendations.
- The group will continue community engagement throughout Fall 2026, with a final report anticipated in December 2026 that will help guide future institutional discussions on academic freedom and its relationship to freedom of expression.

Why It Matters

Operational Governance provides Colorado College with a collaborative framework for addressing institutional challenges that extend beyond the responsibilities of any single office or division. Standing Operational Groups provide ongoing leadership for strategic operational priorities, while Temporary Operational Groups bring together subject matter experts to address emerging issues, develop recommendations, and implement new processes and policies.

Together, these groups strengthen coordination, improve transparency, and support more informed decision-making across the college. As this work continues, the recommendations, tools, and processes developed through Operational Governance will help create more effective, responsive, and collaborative operations that better serve students, faculty, staff, and the broader campus community.

Contributions from:

The Chairs of Colorado College's Standing and Temporary Operational Groups.