Sept. 12, 2016

TO: University Community

FROM: Gregg Kvistad, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Craig Woody, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance

After conversations with many campus stakeholders regarding the need to create an optimal budget and finance structure to support our strategic plan and improve collaboration across campus, we are pleased to announce several important developments.

First, Linda Kosten will become senior associate provost for academic administration. This is a retitling of the senior associate provost for budget, planning and analysis position that was held by Julia McGahey until she retired in June. It will continue to report to the provost and executive vice chancellor.

Linda, who was one of the three finalists in the recent search for senior associate provost for budget, planning and analysis, has ably served the University for 22 years, mostly recently as associate provost for budget, planning and analysis. In her new role, Linda will remain the point person for developing the University’s budget, with increased collaboration with the Office of Business and Financial Affairs, as well as with vice chancellors, other unit heads across campus, and the provost and chancellor. In addition, she will work more closely with the provost and deans on unit-level planning, resource acquisition, academic organization and implementing the academic aspects of DU IMPACT 2025. She will continue to supervise the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis to meet needs across the University.

Second, in light of DU IMPACT 2025 and feedback from our recent search for a senior associate provost, we, together with Chancellor Rebecca Chopp, will immediately begin a review of the University’s budget and financial systems. Over the past nearly 30 years, our model has served us well by precisely defining roles and responsibilities with excellent effect. Moving forward, however, we will need to embrace and support greater departmental and programmatic fluidity in the form of interdisciplinary teaching and research, frequently across academic units. This will require much greater collaboration among the support and business units across campus, as well as new investments in research and teaching and enhanced collaborations with partners outside DU.
Toward that end, Andrew Cullen will become the University’s associate vice chancellor for finance. Andrew, who currently serves as associate vice president for planning, budget and analysis at the University of New Mexico, was also one of the three finalists in our recent budget and planning search. With more than 20 years of experience with strategy and planning, Andrew brings to DU important skills and experience that will make him an effective collaborator and partner. Andrew’s position is especially important as we prepare for the upcoming departure of Controller and Assistant Treasurer Margaret Henry, who announced her resignation recently, and who will be missed after years of dedication and many contributions to the University.

Over the next 12 to 18 months, we will draw on the expertise of DU leadership and stakeholders, as well as external consultants and practitioners, to review our budget and finance operations. Once that review is complete, we will assess and address staff capacity in both the budget and finance offices.

In the meantime, please join us in congratulating Linda Kosten and welcoming Andrew Cullen to these key positions at the University.

We also thank members of the search committee for their time and attention to this important endeavor:

Corinne Lengsfeld, Associate Provost for Research, committee chair

Amy King, Vice Chancellor, Human Resources

Andrei Kutateladze, Dean, Natural Science and Mathematics

Jennifer Keane, Assistant Dean for Operations and Finance, Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Ulli Nierling, Assistant Director, Shared Services

Margaret Henry, Controller/Assistant Treasurer

Tom Willoughby, Vice Chancellor, Enrollment

Frank Tuitt, Senior Advisor to Chancellor/Provost, Multicultural Excellence