



Office of the Chancellor
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

September 9, 2026

To: Sarah Watamura, Faculty Senate President
From: Jeremy Haefner, Chancellor
Re: Senate Resolution Regarding Selective Arming of Campus Safety

Dr. Watamura,

I want to begin by thanking the Faculty Senate for the time and care behind this resolution. I know this is a difficult issue for many members of our community, and I take that seriously. I will also share that I stand by this decision and believe it is the right one, given the current environment.

University leadership carefully reviewed the concerns raised by faculty alongside our obligation to prepare for the emergency we hope never occurs on DU's campus. A limited number of carefully selected and extensively trained Campus Safety officers are already carrying, as part of a broader response model that continues to emphasize prevention, de-escalation, behavioral-health support, and community trust. An armed response is an additional layer meant to close a response gap that could matter when lives are at risk.

The Faculty Senate's concerns deserve an ongoing response. Therefore, the University is committed to:

- Evaluating the program regularly, including review of training, protocols, and outcomes
- Maintaining rigorous safeguards around screening, selection, training, and oversight of any officer authorized to carry
- Continued listening to faculty, staff, and student concerns through the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, and Student Governments

If an incident ever occurred on this campus, I would be the person speaking with affected students, colleagues, and families about whether we had prepared as fully and responsibly as we could. The landscape around campus safety has shifted quickly and dramatically, and that is the lens through which this decision was advised and made.

I am grateful to the Faculty Senate for raising these concerns directly and for the ongoing partnership in keeping our community safe. I welcome continued dialogue as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Haefner
Chancellor