

Provost Statement on COVID-19 and Federal Transition Impacts for External Evaluators

June 9, 2026

Dear Evaluator,

The COVID-19 pandemic took a substantial toll on faculty productivity and career progress throughout higher education. UCCS seeks to be attentive to the pandemic's extenuating circumstances and ongoing impact as we evaluate this candidate's case.

Likewise, the federal transition beginning in January of 2025 has considerably impacted faculty productivity. Shifts in federal funding priorities, delays in grant disbursements, grant terminations and stop-orders, and changes in research compliance and reporting requirements have disrupted ongoing projects and created uncertainty in planning future work. Additionally, transitions in leadership and policy direction at key federal agencies have led to interruptions in collaborative initiatives and slowed the review and approval processes for research proposals.

Reviewer Request: As you review this candidate's professional achievements, we invite you to consider the effects of both the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent federal transition on faculty work. The pandemic's disruptions—such as the shift to remote learning, restricted access to research spaces and resources, increased service demands, and limited travel—have had lasting effects on faculty productivity and timelines. In addition, the federal transition beginning in January 2025 has introduced new challenges, including delays in federal funding, changes in research priorities, and interruptions in collaborative and grant-related activities. These factors may have influenced the quantity, pace, or timing of the candidate's accomplishments. We therefore ask that you focus on the quality and impact of the candidate's work during the review period and consider these broader contextual challenges as you holistically evaluate their research, teaching, and service.

Lastly, we have provided a sample of questions to consider while reviewing a candidate's dossier and the impact of COVID-19 across their research, teaching, and service ([Documenting Pandemic Impacts in your UCCS Dossier](#), [Reviewing Pandemic Impacts to UCCS Faculty Careers](#)). Thank you for your time and energy in this important candidate review process.

Sincerely,



Kevin Laudner, Ph.D.
Acting Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs