

Generative AI Faculty Town Hall #1

April 28, 2026

University of Colorado Denver

Welcome

Provost Karen Marrongelle

Facilitators: AI Faculty Fellows

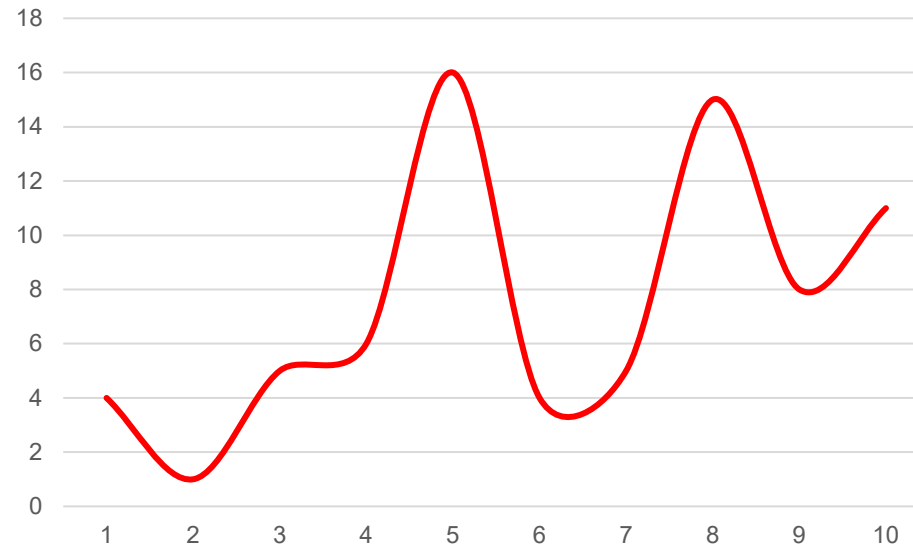
Farnoush Banaei-Kashani (CEDC – Computer Science)

Soumia Bardhan (CLAS - Communication)

Cameron Blevins (CLAS - History)

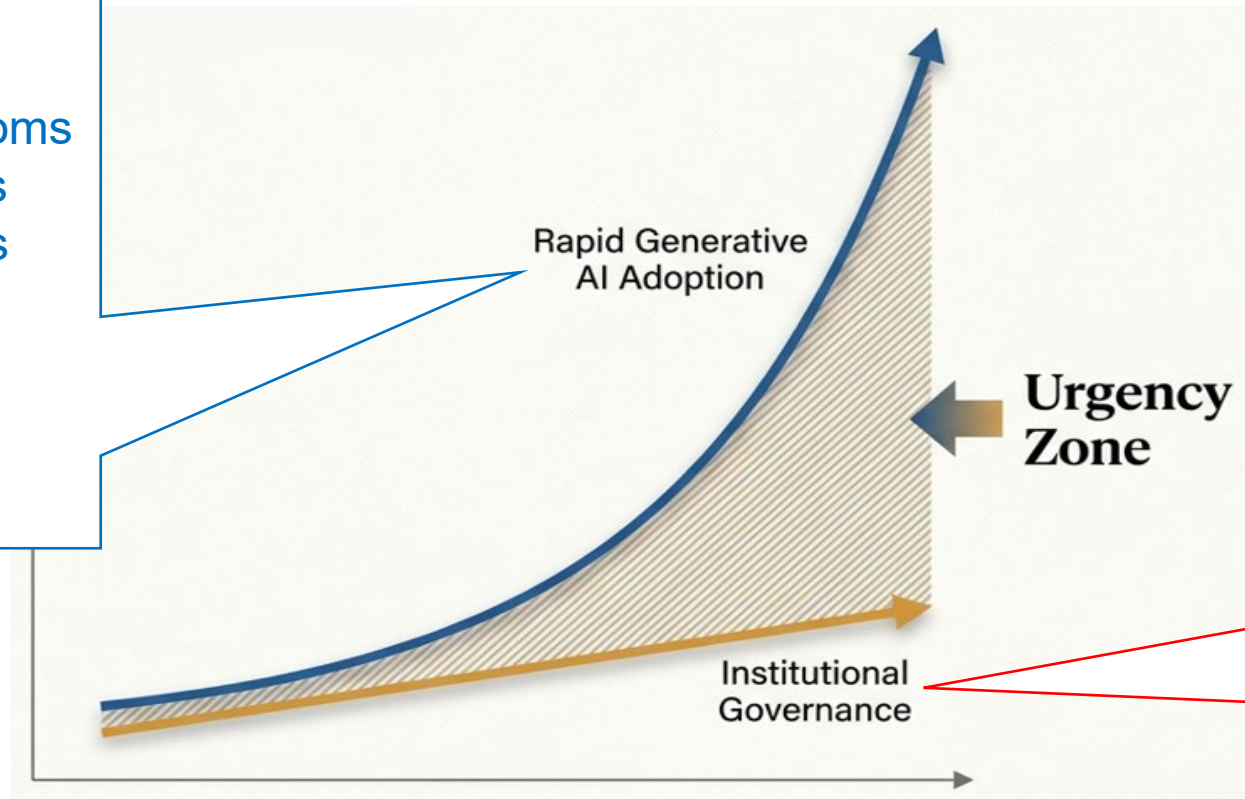
Today's Participation

- ❑ 84 registrants for AI Faculty Town Halls
- ❑ All schools & colleges represented
- ❑ Responses to attitudes about Generative AI (1 = strongly opposed, 10 = strongly supportive)
 - AI in Teaching: **7 out of 10** (mean 6.5, n=75)
 - AI in Research: **7 out of 10** (mean 6.7, n=75)



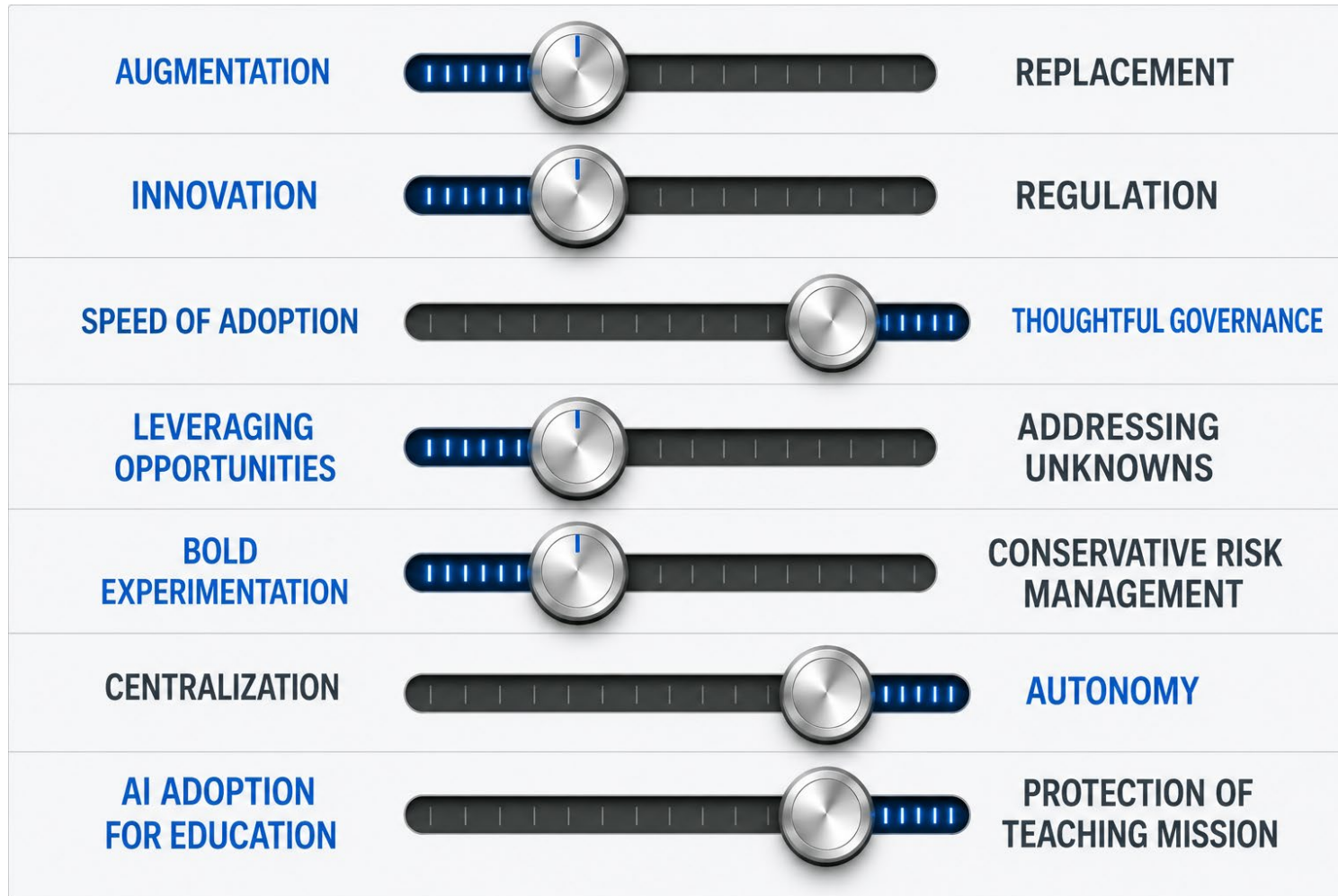
The Challenge

- Rapid adoption across classrooms and workplaces
- Enterprise tools and vendor contracts
- ...



- Uneven guidance, uneven access, and uneven risk, at pedagogical, institutional, and ethical levels

Tensions



Beware of “Elephant in the Dark Room” Effect



Everyone has a hold of one part of a much larger picture!

The Approach

1. Share perspectives to learn from each other
 2. Strategize to address The Challenge
-

Goals and Expectations for Today

Share what we have heard so far + Gather additional input

Not expecting or seeking consensus

Approaching this conversation with respect, humility, and curiosity

We will use this session to plan Faculty Town Hall #2 (Th. 5/7)

Agenda

I. The Promises of AI (25 min)

- What we've heard so far
- What are we missing?

II. The Perils of AI (25 min)

- What we've heard so far
- What are we missing?

III. From Reaction to Strategy (20 min)

- What would you like to see moving forward?

IV. Next Steps (5 min)

The Promises of AI

What we know so far

AI Promises in Education

- **Personalized learning:** Adapts content, pace, and difficulty to each student's needs and learning style.
 - **Intelligent tutoring systems:** Provides 24/7 support with explanations, feedback, and guided practice.
 - **Automated grading and feedback:** Speeds up assessment while giving more detailed, consistent feedback.
 - **Accessibility and inclusion:** Supports learners with disabilities (e.g., speech-to-text, translation, adaptive interfaces).
 - **Learning analytics:** Identifies struggling students early and suggests interventions.
 - **Scalable education:** Expands access to quality education globally, including remote or underserved areas.
 - **Content generation:** Helps create lessons, quizzes, simulations, and interactive materials quickly.
 - **Administrative efficiency:** Automates scheduling, reporting, and routine tasks for educators.
-

AI Promises in Research

- **Accelerated discovery:** Analyzes large datasets to identify patterns and generate hypotheses faster.
 - **Collaboration and knowledge integration:** Connects insights across disciplines and languages.
 - **Literature review assistance:** Summarizes and synthesizes vast amounts of academic work.
 - **Data analysis and modeling:** Improves accuracy and efficiency in statistical analysis, simulations, and predictions.
 - **Experimental design assistance:** Suggests optimized methods, variables, and setups.
 - **Reproducibility and error detection:** Identifies inconsistencies, anomalies, or potential mistakes in data.
 - **Automation of routine tasks:** Handles data cleaning, data visualization, coding, and documentation.
 - **Open science enablement:** Makes research outputs more accessible through summarization, translation, and metadata generation.
 - **Resource optimization:** Reduces cost and time by prioritizing promising experiments or datasets.
-

Discussion: The Promise of AI

- What are we missing?
 - What are you most excited about?
-

The Perils of AI

The Perils of AI: What You've Said So Far

Academic Integrity

Student Learning

Reliability & Bias

Environmental Impact

Ethics and Privacy

Shared Governance & Faculty Labor

Pro-AI Rhetoric & Investment

Academic Integrity

Rampant student use of AI for assignments - how do you dissuade and detect?

Esp. actue for online asynchronous classes

Need for faculty support – ex. testing center, shift to hybrid classes, etc.

Student Learning

Erosion of student core skills (esp. critical thinking & writing)

Consistency of student experience - ex. ICB students

Reliability & Bias

Fabrications & hallucinations

GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out)

Bias baked into model training data

Environmental Impact

Electricity & water required to train models and to build and operate data centers

“environmental repercussions of blindly feeding the AI industry”

Ethics and Privacy

Intellectual property used to train models

OpenAI as a company (ex. Department of War contract)

Student data protections under ChatGPT Edu contract

Concerns over research (ex. IRB/human subject violations) & grading

Shared Governance and Labor

Lack of transparency & shared governance for ChatGPT Edu contract

“more responsibility with no resources and no additional pay”

Pro-AI Rhetoric & Investment

"the administration is sending the message that only one view point will be rewarded (pro-AI)"

Pushback on idea that AI is inevitable

Opportunity cost of \$2 million ChatGPT Edu contract

Discussion: The Perils of AI

What we've heard so far:

Academic Integrity
Student Learning
Reliability & Bias
Environmental Impact
Ethics and Privacy
Shared Governance & Faculty Labor
Pro-AI Rhetoric & Investment

- **What are we missing?**
 - **What is the most pressing for you?**
-

From Reaction to Strategy

Summer AI Liaison Community of Practice

- ✓ Support for faculty to work on developing AI guidance tailored to their discipline and institutional context
 - ✓ June 8 to July 23, 2026 (six weeks)
 - ✓ Participants are expected to commit to 36 total hours (6 hours per week)
 - ✓ Weekly synchronous meetings on Zoom (60–90 minutes)
 - ✓ Independent work on a unit-specific deliverable, supported by group sessions
 - ✓ Light check-ins during the 2026–27 academic year (2–3 meetings) and availability as an informal liaison for your unit or college
 - ✓ Compensation: \$1,500 summer stipend
 - ✓ Open to any rostered faculty
 - ✓ Look for announcement from your Dean
-

From Reaction to Strategy

What steps do you want to see the university take moving forward?

How should we proceed as AI Faculty Fellows?

Next Steps

Next Steps

- ✓ AI Faculty Fellows will synthesize feedback
 - ✓ **Town Hall #2:**
 - ✓ Thursday, May 7th, 2:00-3:30PM
 - ✓ Student Commons Building 2500a + Zoom
 - ✓ **Summer AI Liaison Community of Practice**
 - ✓ Look for announcement from Deans
-