

Boulder Faculty Assembly Meeting

Minutes

March 3, 2005

Attending:

Barbara Bintliff, Chair

Stein Sture, Vice Chair

Deane Bowers, Secretary

Mel Branch

Pamela Diggle, At-Large Representative

Greg Carey

Cathy Comstock

Kim Dickey

David Fagerstrom

Hardy Fredricksmeyer

Martha Hanna

Bob Hohlfelder

Samuel Junod

David Kasso

Roger King

Kai Larsen

Rich Laver

Paul Levitt

Terry Sawchuk

K T Mahanthappa

John McIver

Peter Molnar

Rolf Norgaard

Rick Perdue

Tad Pfeffer

Andrew Pleszkun

Gail Ramsberger

Terry Sawchuk

Ted Snow

Deward Walker

Marty Walter

R L Widmann

John Cooper, Retired Faculty

A David Hill, Retired Faculty

Debbie Ash, University Perspectives

Brittany Anas, Boulder Daily Camera

Jeff Dodge, Silver and Gold Record

Dale Cedars, Channel 7 News

John Ensslin, Rocky Mountain News

Guests:

Regent Michael Carrigan

President Elizabeth Hoffman

Not Attending:

Uriel Nauenberg, Former BFA Chair

Francis Beer

Anne Bliss

Martin Bickman

Frances Charteris

Philip Graves

Leslie Irvine

David Fagerstrom

Rob Guralnick

Bruce Henderson

Paul Kroll

Robert Kuchta

Bill McGinley

Chidi Nwaubani

Bob Regoli

Bob Schulzinger

A meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly was held on Thursday, March 3, 2005 in the Fleming Law School, Room 102. Chair Barbara Bintliff presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

A. Approval of Minutes

MOVED and seconded that the minutes of December 2, 2004 be approved as amended. There being no further comments, corrections or changes to the minutes, the motion to approve the minutes carried.

B. Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the press and University Perspectives representative Debbie Ash. The following items of business were covered:

- The Bylaws Committee has revised the current bylaws and everyone was encouraged to read them and send comments to Sture.
- Snow made a motion for a resolution supporting Ceal Barry, Women's Basketball Coach who plans on retiring after this season. Widman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Bintliff agreed to communicate the BFA's thanks via a letter.
- The Chair read the resolution in support of the Silver and Gold Record which opposes future cuts to the newspaper's budget. Faculty Council has passed the resolution and it asks the BFA to ratify it. A motion to pass the resolution was made, there was no discussion on the motion, and it passed unanimously with no discussion.
- The report on Ward Churchill may be concluded next week and the Assembly may wish to convene a campus Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the findings and next steps.
- The BFA's position on Academic Freedom is now on the BFA website.

Bintliff read the Academic Freedom statement aloud to the assembly and Snow asked if the language referring to Churchill could be interpreted as support. Kassoy agreed that the inclusion of Churchill's name could create a problem for the BFA unless we obliquely mention him. Bintliff posed the question to the assembly whether Churchill's name should be removed and Comstock stated that his name does date the document. She moved to amend the statement, Bintliff asked for discussion and a vote was taken on the motion to amend the statement, which passed unanimously.

Branch reviewed the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics (COIA) document which promotes college athletic reform distributed to the faculty. He emphasized that as the BFA's Intercollegiate Athletics Committee representative to the COIA, Snow needed the faculty-level endorsement for the basic principles outlined in the COIA document in order to represent CU at an upcoming conference. The statements are principles and do not bind or commit the faculty. Bintliff reminded the faculty that we are a member of the COIA coalition and our representative is Ted Snow. Cooper moved to suspend the Bylaws and there was a second. All were in favor of suspending the Bylaws on this matter. Bintliff asked for discussion on the COIA principles and Larsen raised a question about language differences between the Executive Summary and Best Practices report. The COIA document was adopted unanimously, giving Snow the necessary authority to represent CU faculty at the next national meeting.

C. Special Reports

Bintliff introduced newly elected Regent Michael Carrigan to the assembly, who began by distributing a copy of a column written by John Andrews entitled, "What if there was no CU?" along with his comments delivered at the February 3, 2005 Regents meeting.

He characterized the remarks in the Andrews editorial as “part of a larger fight” involving the future of higher education that CU must engage in to win. He encouraged the faculty to get the great stories about CU circulating and reassured those present that all of the Regents were committed to preserving tenure, academic freedom and free speech. Bintliff thanked Carrigan for his remarks and support of the faculty.

President Hoffman arrived and told the faculty that it had been a good day for higher education as the first round of budget negotiations had resulted in more cash than asked for, leaving CU in a position of more spending authority. She reviewed the work with the House and Senate on TABOR reform and the agreement to reduce the tax rate that needs bipartisan support if it is to gain support. The President added that after today the task was to work with caucuses and make certain the bill makes it through the Long Bill process.

The President told the assembly that Channel 9 News had contacted her office on Monday about the grand jury report and on Wednesday she had asked Governor Owens and the legislature to help CU and redirect energies to resolve the problems the campus is facing. Barnett and the CU Foundation have both agreed to an audit and Owens has agreed to meet. She went on to say that with faculty help, significant and extensive changes have been made, and added that the future of the University of Colorado depends on much broader discussions to help restore our reputation. Hanna asked what the president’s office could do to counter the public perception that faculty spending minimal hours working for exorbitant salaries, a kind of “dis-information” about university life, and Hoffman replied that it is a perception problem, and one idea would be to resurrect the proposed program that would connect legislators to faculty for a day so that both could observe the other at work.

Hoffman assured the faculty that the academic freedom issue was extremely important to her, but added that it is not a license but rather a responsibility and that no one is insulated from being investigated on the basis of suspected misconduct. In the beginning of the Churchill controversy the issue seemed to be about free speech but other concerns have been uncovered that the university is required to investigate fully. Deans Getches and Gleeson and Chancellor DiStefano are currently reviewing Churchill’s scholarship and will seek to separate the legal issues from those of possible misconduct. Hohlfelder said he was concerned that we are in “dangerous times” and Hoffman agreed it has similarities to the McCarthy era, but that she is trying to follow the university’s policies to ensure that we don’t go down that path. She was not at liberty to address specifics of the Churchill matter, and added that there is no question that the people who went after Churchill feel empowered to do so. Norgaard was concerned that the resigning of the loyalty oath was being touted as a record keeping matter and added that the university needs to stand up and protect its faculty and on occasion needs to say “no.” Hoffman appreciated the fairness of his comments. Hohlfelder asked what opportunities existed in this latest challenge for the university, and the President answered that we can show the world that we can be a model university for athletic reform and how to deal with this new McCarthyism. Pfeffer said that the gulf between the understanding of what academia is and the public perception of it is huge and growing and asked how it could be closed.

Hoffman said it is a difficult task requiring rebuilding understanding due to a lot of suspicion beyond the campus walls. Walker asked if it was necessary to review tenure proceedings, and Hoffman said she would support a review especially if faculty were to initiate it.

There being no more questions, Bintliff thanked President Hoffman for her time.

D. New Business

There was no new business.

E. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly Senate Meeting will be on Thursday, February 3, 2005 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Fleming Law Building, room 102.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting was adjourned.