

Boulder Faculty Assembly Meeting

Minutes

May 5, 2005

Attending:

Barbara Bintliff, Chair

Stein Sture, Vice Chair

Deane Bowers, Secretary

Uriel Nauenberg, Former BFA Chair

Mel Branch

Pamela Diggle, At-Large Representative

Wayne Angevine

Frank Beer

Sedat Biringen

Greg Carey

Frances Charteris

Cathy Comstock

Kim Dickey

Don Eron

David Fagerstrom

Hardy Fredricksmeier

Martha Hanna

Jerry Hauser

Samuel Junod

David Kasso

Daniel Kim

Buzz King

E. Christian Kopff

Robert Kuchta

William Kunzweiler

Kai Larsen

Paul Levitt

Terry Sawchuk

John McIver

Peter Molnar

Rolf Norgaard

Rick Perdue

Jerry Peterson

Tad Pfeffer

Andrew Pleszkun

Terry Sawchuk

Simon Sparks

Deward Walker

R L Widmann

Alexey Wolfson

Jinx Cooper

A D Hill

Marty Walters

Gloria Hicks

Julia McKie

Greg Fisher, Public Safety

Michael Grant, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs

Jeff Dodge, Silver and Gold Record

Not Attending:

Bob Hohlfelder

Hardy Fredricksmeier

Anne Bliss

Martin Bickman

Philip Graves

Leslie Irvine

Rob Guralnick

Bruce Henderson

Paul Kroll

Rich Laver

Bill McGinley

Chidi Nwaubani

Bob Regoli

Bob Schulzinger

Ted Snow

Gail Ramsberger

A meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly was held on Thursday, May 5, 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. Chair's Announcements

The Chair announced that last year the Athletic Reform Report was approved and this year faculty are needed to meet with recruits, parents, and to act as mentors or liaisons for the athletes. Any faculty interested in this effort are encouraged to contact Ted Snow.

Regent Carrigan has put forth a resolution to study the feasibility of moving the offices of the President and Regents to a neutral site Denver. An informal vote was taken at the last ExCom meeting which supported the resolution., and Faculty Council has also passed a resolution in support of the study. The Chair asked if the assembly would consider the resolution or vote in favor of the study today. A show of hands was made in favor of support for Carrigan's study.

A gift presentation was made to outgoing Chair Bintliff at this time by Secretary Deane Bowers.

B. ELECTIONS

Bintliff yielded the floor to BFA Secretary Bowers. Paper ballots were distributed and the election of BFA Officers and BFA members to fill committee vacancies for 2005-2006 proceeded with the following results:

BFA Executive Board Members:

Chair: Jerry Hauser, Communication

Vice Chair: R L Widmann, English

Secretary: David Kassoy, Engineering

At-Large: Stein Sture, Engineering

At-Large: Deward Walker, Ethnic Studies

BFA Representatives to Standing Committees:

- **Academic Affairs Committee**

Rolf Norgaard, Program for Writing and Rhetoric

- **Administrative Appraisal Committee**

Sedat Biringen, Engineering

- **Administrative Services Committee – combine with Academic Technology**

Buzz King, Engineering

Kathryn Pieplow, Program for Writing and Rhetoric

E. Christian Kopff, Honors

- **Faculty Affairs**

Alexey Wolfson, Chemistry

- **Faculty Compensation**

Wayne Angevine, CIRES

Don Eron, Program for Writing and Rhetoric

- **Diversity – incl. Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Affairs, Cmte on Women, Minority Affairs**

Daniel Kim, English

Pamela Diggle, EEB

- **Nominating Committee**

Deane Bowers, EEB and Museum

- **Student Affairs**

Lori Hunter, Sociology

Bob Ferry, History

The Communications Committee was dissolved, and according to the revised Bylaws, the Diversity Committee is now comprised of Diversity, the Committee on Women, GLBT, and Minority Affairs. Administrative Services and Academic Technology were also combined into one committee.

C. Special Reports

The Chair introduced Greg Fisher from Transportation Services who handed out materials on the CU Transplan 2004 and stated that one of his initial tasks as a planning

consultant was to provide a comprehensive strategy for transportation on the CU campus. He encouraged the faculty to read the findings of the 8 month data collection period consisting of staff, faculty, student, and visitor surveys. Fisher said planning for transportation is about moving people and determining how they want to move. These initial findings reveal Boulder is in good shape with regard to variety of transportation options. We also have opportunities to increase and improve our pedestrian and bicycle access and one of the biggest challenges is the physical environment on campus for both pedestrians and vehicles.

The survey process has enabled Transportation Services to evaluate statistics and personal opinions and look at some of the realities based on the City of Boulder's comprehensive plan and the master plan for the campus. The goal is to fit strategies and guidelines for both physical and program development within those plans based on who we really are and where we want to be in the future. There is openness on the Boulder campus and in the larger community to the opportunity to do some unique things. Fisher encouraged the faculty to send him any review comments on the draft recommendations on the many categories including circulation and parking, pedestrian environment, bicycles, and funding.

Comstock mentioned a plan to build parking next to the stadium and asked if that was still on the table. Fisher said it wasn't but that if it is proposed again it would need to answer questions about traffic in general and realistically loading traffic onto streets. Federal dollars for a transit center on the Broadway-Euclid-18th Street triangle are coming and the center will require planning around the time Fine Arts is expanded to ease traffic on Broadway and get buses to campus and Broadway. This center could also serve as a "front door" or point of welcome for campus. Cooper asked if more of the dismount signs will be painted out and Fisher replied affirmatively and added that pedestrian zones are in the proposal stage as a replacement for the dismount system. Fisher answered more questions about campus traffic flow and told the faculty that the Boulder is the biggest user and advocate of bus services although the campus must renegotiate the contract with RTD every year.

Bintliff thanked Fisher for his presentation and said that the Administrative and Technology Committee will be the liaison with Fisher's group. Fisher encouraged everyone to comment on the plan throughout the month of June.

The Chair introduced Michael Grant to the assembly who then described the revisions to the Faculty Course Questionnaire and the process he and his committee followed to accomplish that goal. The resulting report is available on the web for faculty perusal at <http://www.colorado.edu/pba.fcq/chancellor.html> and is currently 38 pages long. The new FCQ form is shorter and the scoring system has been altered for finer resolution and to allow for intermediate scores. While the narrative question often provides the most useful information about an instructor, women and minority faculty can be negatively targeted with this question, so to compromise it was decided to create a question where the answer goes directly to the instructor and they choose what next to do with it. Grant invited questions and comments and told the assembly that all suggestions would be

accumulated by the committee and taken to the Chancellor. If the proposed report is approved the very earliest implementation would be Fall of 2006.

Sparks asked why students can grade their teachers anonymously since instructors can't grade students anonymously. Grant replied that students are actually afraid of faculty and anonymity is high priority in evaluations, particularly for graduate students in smaller classes. He added that it is also true that you cannot "buy" an FCQ score with a higher grade. Sparks challenged that statement by saying that within his department there appears to be a distinct correlation between higher FCQ scores for those who grade more leniently as opposed to professors who are harder graders. Grant admitted that grade correlation is the number one question asked and explained that there is a positive correlation of .02 or about 4 percent variation which can be attributed to student grades. There is a substantial variance between disciplines, so committees should only make FCQ score comparisons within closely related fields of study. Walter asked if there was a chance for the median number to reflect the course grade and instructor grade rather than take the average of the two, and Grant replied that the plan includes the median grade and it will provide distributions as well. Cooper said he read the report and congratulated Grant on the hard work that went into its production. Dickey seconded his statement and added that perhaps the way in which students are informed about the FCQ when they come onto campus could be altered. Grant agreed and said that they are working on ways to inform students about the importance of the FCQ and how to use it constructively. Dickey asked if the accessibility of the instructor remained a question on the form and Grant said it was omitted from the current version, as was the "compare this instructor to all the others you've had on campus" question. Kassoy asked if the committee made recommendations as to how the FCQ scores were to be used for faculty reappointment, and Grant said the FCQ numbers are data and that the FCQ's should count no more than one-third to one-half of the faculty evaluation. Bintliff asked the faculty to read the report and contact Grant as soon as possible with comments and suggestions, she thanked Grant for his hard work, and she acknowledged Nauenberg and Hanna for starting the FCQ review process.

D. Committee Business

Bintliff reminded the assembly that the revised Bylaws which were introduced at the last meeting on April 7 were to be formally approved at this meeting. The Bylaws have been moved and seconded and are before the assembly as a final vote. The Chair invited discussion, and Beer expressed regret that the Communications Committee was dissolved and suggested that the committee be reconstituted through friendly amendment. Bintliff said that the Executive Committee became in effect the Communications Committee and that we haven't had a separate committee for years and it has been difficult to get faculty to serve. Beer hoped the committee would one day be reinstated. Cooper said that these things are not set in stone and recommended passage of the revised Bylaws at this meeting and have the Executive Committee consider Beer's opinions in the fall. Walker supported Beer's concerns and suggested tabling the issue to fall was a good idea. Bintliff called for a vote and the revised Bylaws were unanimously approved.

The Chair presented the BFA Budget and Planning Compensation Recommendations and asked for a motion to accept the substitute motion and its changes as outlined. Walker so moved and Sture seconded. The motion carried.

The proposed Faculty Responsibilities Part IV document was reviewed by Branch and Bintliff reminded the assembly that the policy had long been a part of the faculty responsibility documentation and the goal today was for the faculty to approve it and make it policy. Branch added that the document came from the Faculty Affairs Committee and had been reviewed by University Counsel, after which it was approved by the BFA Executive Committee and that it comes to the BFA as a Notice of Motion. Bintliff added that as it comes from committee it needs no second. Walker asked if passage of the document would affect the ongoing investigation by the research misconduct committee and Branch replied in the negative. Bintliff called for those in favor of adoption of the policy and the motion carried.

Bintliff reviewed the proposed Definition of an Undergraduate Credit Hour which was developed to help students understand course expectations. Walker asked if the statement covered variation, and Dickey said she interpreted the definition to mean three hours of outside class time per credit hour was required and this did not include class time. The new definition, if it included in-class time, changes the proportion depending on the class time length. Bintliff replied that the definition is a guideline and that every faculty member on campus has the right to define his or her expectations right up front. Dickey recommended exclusion of class time as a friendly amendment. Bintliff said the committee could not accept a friendly amendment at this time. Norgaard said the committee took the notion of full-time study very seriously and given that 15 credit hours is the average full time load on campus, 45 hours seemed to be reasonable. Stein commented on the language of the second paragraph, "required 120 credits," and pointed out that the College of Engineering has a 128 credit hour requirement and recommended the language be made more flexible so that students would not be misled. McIver asked if the definition had been published or communicated to students and that commented that students might read it and interpret the definition as a rule, and Bintliff said that publication was planned but the notion of "rule" was not the intent. Widmann offered to change the language in the second paragraph from "required 120 credits" and Bintliff suggested "for example, in order to complete 120 credits" as replacement language. Widmann added that implicit in all of this is a commitment on the part of the CU campus to try and graduate students in 8 semesters. Hauser asked if the committee had taken into account the upper and lower division course requirement differences. Bintliff suggested that the definition go back to the committee for revision and presentation at the September 1 BFA meeting. Cooper offered a friendly amendment in the form of changing the language to "expect to spend a minimum of 3 hours per week" or "for example, 120 hours." Bintliff asked for a motion to table the definition, and it was so moved and seconded.

Bintliff then introduced Carey's "Respect Initiative" and Carey explained that in order to combat the many negative messages circulating on campus the faculty need the Chancellor's ear. Bintliff described Carey's request as asking for a coordination of effort

among the many campus groups which have organized to combat this negativity and praised Carey's idea combine the messages into one. She asked the assembly for permission to allow the BFA Chair to speak in favor of coordination of such efforts on campus. The assembly so moved.

There being no more questions, Bintliff thanked the faculty for their commitment and attendance over the past year.

E. New Business

There was no new business.

F. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly Senate Meeting will be on Thursday, September 1, 2005 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. , location to be determined.

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

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.