

Boulder Faculty Assembly Meeting

Minutes

October 7, 2004

Attending:

Stein Sture, Vice Chair
Deane Bowers, Secretary
Martin Bickman
Anne Bliss
Mel Branch
Francis Beer
Pamela Diggle, At-Large Representative
Greg Carey
Hardy Fredricksmeier
Philip Graves
Samuel Junod
David Kasoy
Roger King
Peter Molnar
Rolf Norgaard
Rick Perdue
Tad Pfeffer
Gail Ramsberger
Terry Sawchuk
Ted Snow
Deward Walker
R L Widmann
John Cooper, Retired Faculty
Kristin Queja, UCSU Academic Affairs Liaison
Elizabeth Clark, Boulder Daily Camera
Kim Glasscock, Silver and Gold Record

Guests: Michael Grant, Peter Simons and Martin Bickman, Sgt. Gary Arai, Boulder
Campus Police

University Perspective Guests:

Holly Wiemers
David Normann

Michele Callagy
David Deffenbacher

Not Attending:

Barbara Bintliff, BFA Chair
Jerry Peterson, At-Large Representative
Uriel Nauenberg, Former BFA Chair
Frances Charteris
Cathy Comstock
Kim Dickey
David Fagerstrom
Rob Guralnick
Martha Hanna
Bruce Henderson
Bob Hohlfelder
Leslie Irvine
Robert Kuchta
Rich Laver
Bill McGinley
John McIver
Chidi Nwaubani
Bob Regoli
Paul Kroll
Kai Larsen
Andrew Pleszkun
Bob Schulzinger
Rodney Taylor

A meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly was held on Thursday, October 7 in the Fleming Law School, Room 156. Vice Chair Stein Sture presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

A. Approval of Minutes

MOVED and seconded that the minutes of September 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. Vice-Chair's Announcements

Vice Chair Sture welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the following announcements:

- Faculty are encouraged to respond to this month's Question of the Month: Undergraduate Credit Hour, as posted on the BFA website. The question of the undergraduate credit hour is related to the issue of academic rigor, and Diggle said that

interesting comments had been submitted thus far, but only fifteen responses were submitted, and she encouraged all faculty to respond.

- Faculty are encouraged to participate in this year's December Commencement Ceremony, December 17.
- Faculty are encouraged to develop meaningful activities for the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Thanksgiving week.
- The Bylaws Committee is working on extensive modifications to the bylaws and three Notices of Motion regarding specific proposed changes would be brought forward later in the meeting.

C. Vice-Chair's Report

Sture introduced R L Widmann, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee. Widmann stated that at present, the Boulder campus has a course forgiveness pilot program that would fall under the Uniform Grading Policy if it were to become a policy. During the process of submitting changes to the UGP when the issue arose on the Boulder campus, a statement was made that any campus wishing to have a course forgiveness policy may do so. The issue was voted on by the BFA in favor of course forgiveness by a narrow margin: 11 in favor, 10 against. Chair Bintliff charged the Academic Affairs Committee to look again at the course forgiveness issue and they have done so. The committee decided to present Snow's list of "pro's and con's" as distributed to faculty. Widmann stated that the BFA Academic Affairs Committee faculty was unanimous in believing that what would be required to create a course forgiveness policy on the Boulder campus would be a vote by faculty in the schools and colleges. Widmann believed that the appropriate way to do this is to have each individual school and college vote but have all faculty as determined by those schools and colleges vote first. Branch asked what would determine the outcome, and Widmann said the number of schools and colleges would determine the results and added that it could be possible to have a balloting of the entire body of faculty to include an informational voter's guide as to what the policy means. Walker asked whether it had been discussed that departments within Arts and Sciences could vary considerably on the vote and questioned how adequate faculty input could be guaranteed. Bowers stated that voting by colleges would be a mistake as faculty as a whole could vote for or against the policy by a substantial number and yet the schools and colleges could reverse that vote which would be unfair to faculty. Ramsberger thought the majority of faculty votes would be preferable as a way to get to the issue of representation.

After some discussion as to the merits of course forgiveness, Walker moved if there was a second that there be a tally of the full faculty vote on course forgiveness rather than a vote by colleges. Cooper added that the best way to proceed would be for us to ask the deans to administer such a vote on our behalf. Widmann paraphrased the motion to read that the vote would be made by all of the campus faculty but the deans of the schools and colleges would conduct the vote. Walker approved Widmann's friendly amendment.

Ramsberger said that this is not a BFA issue but an issue that should be determined by faculty vote, and asked for clarification on the EPUS wording. Widmann replied that changes to the UGP for the system are determined by the faculty of the schools and colleges, meaning that each college and each school get one vote. Ramsberger then recommended that since this is not a systems change and that we conduct an all faculty vote and not vote by school or college. Norgaard said that his reading of the Uniform Grading Policy included a special procedure by which changes could be made to the policy and there was room for a faculty vote that is not by school or college. An individual campus can make decisions about course forgiveness, and the specific procedure by which campuses make decisions was left intentionally ambiguous. Sture asked if the motion should be considered now or taken up as a notice of motion and be brought up for vote by the BFA November 4. Beer suggested the BFA have a recommendation and discussion as to how the vote should be conducted. Widmann said the committee was prepared to take the issue back and added that as it is a very contentious issue, all feedback and opinions on the matter should be heard. Sture concluded the matter would be taken back by Academic Affairs to be and prepared as a draft motion for consideration by the Executive Committee and ultimately by the BFA at the November 4 BFA Senate Meeting.

Cooper thought Walker's motion was perfectly clear that all faculty would vote on the issue and the notice of motion was clear and added that there was a motion on the floor that required a vote. Sture agreed. Branch clarified that the only way the BFA could vote at this meeting would be if there was a motion to call the question on which there is no debate. Carey added that to vote at this meeting would also require suspension of the bylaws as the motion does have to go to the Executive Committee first. The notice of motion will go to the Executive Committee as soon as possible and then to the full BFA on November 4.

D. Special Reports

The Vice Chair introduced Michael Grant and Martin Bickman of the Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement to the Assembly. Grant discussed the institute's idea to enhance civic engagement on campus and reminded the assembly that one of our university missions is to "graduate civically-engaged citizens." The purpose of the IECE is to add and supplement the current educational programs on campus and he was before the assembly to generate interest from the BFA to ensure the institute is successful. He expects to write proposals to raise money and added that the IECE is not supported by the university and does not compete for campus dollars with other programs. The Institute plans to offer a modest salary or faculty release time to those who wish to invent or rework coursework with the idea of incorporating ethical and civic education concepts into curricula. Every major and every department, he concluded, should have engagement with these ideas, and he encouraged faculty to connect with curricula in a direct way with these ideas. He distributed brochures describing the Institute and invited

faculty to communicate ideas and concerns and suggestions as to how to make the institute work.

Bickman told the assembly that the proposed institute is an attempt to integrate we do across campus lines and is a deliberate attempt to integrate teaching with research and service. He said that the deepest learning occurs when there is an experiential component involved in the process and that one of the problems facing Arts & Sciences concerns engaging students so that they want to do the work and are self motivated and autonomous. If we take students outside of themselves and make them obligated to others and have them reflect on the work or work in a conceptual academic way, we can change the learning culture. Cooper asked what the BFA could do, and Grant answered that suggestions and recommendations as to how to make the Institute work are welcome.

Sture thanked Grant and Bickman for their presentation, and introduced Sgt. Gary Arai from the Boulder Campus Police Department, who described the laptop registration program. The program was created to prevent theft. Since the laptop program was initiated by the City of Boulder Police Department, no registered laptops have been reported stolen. He offered to register faculty laptops after the meeting and added that he could also provide registration service on demand if faculty called for an appointment. Sture thanked Sgt. Arai for providing the registration service and encouraged faculty with laptops to register.

E. Unfinished Business

Sture then presented three Notices of Motion written by John McIver which are tied to the Bylaws housecleaning project and he asked that the faculty formulate any questions on the motions and direct them to him, Chair Bintliff, or McIver.

On the first Notice of Motion, Assembly Quorum, Carey asked about email voting and whether item number 2 included emailing ballots. Sture thought so. He suggested everyone read and consider all three notices: Assembly Quorum, Absentee Balloting, and Proxy Voting, for consideration at the November 4 meeting. Bliss asked about when a roll call vote would be taken and Carey said it is essentially open voting where fifty percent plus one BFA member must be present. Graves called into question the use of the word, “absentee” in the second motion.

Beer asked if the proposed revisions came from the Bylaws Committee and Sture told him that they were written by individuals. Beer asked whether the Bylaws Committee should review these proposed changes and Sture said the committee would review the all the bylaws, including these Notices of Motion.

Walker said he noticed about half of the assembly attends the monthly meetings and asked whether these motions would encourage people to vote. He was concerned that voting appears to be the requisite and that these motions might encourage people to vote

without having participated in the discussions. Sture asked that comments be sent either to himself, Bintliff, or McIver and that the Bylaws will be tidied up.

F. New Business

Sture asked for additional items of business. Carey suggested that the assembly schedule a speaker who could address educational inflation. Walker offered that Paul Levitt has a lot to say on the topic, as would the campus registrar.

H. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly Senate Meeting will be on Thursday, November 4, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Fleming Law Building, room 156. The guest speaker will be Provost Phil DiStefano.

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