

MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting,
Boulder Faculty Assembly
January 23, 2012

Attending

Jerry Peterson, BFA Chair
Catherine Kunce, BFA Secretary
Peggy Jobe, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Greg Carey, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Carmen Grace, BFA Academic Affairs Committee Chair
Karen Ramirez, BFA Administrative Services & Technology Committee Chair
Jerry Rudy, BFA Budget and Planning Committee Chair
Melinda Picket-May, BFA Diversity Committee Chair
Paul Chinowsky, BFA Faculty Affairs Committee Chair
Adam Norris, BFA Instructor-Track Faculty Affairs Committee Co-Chair
Elizabeth Bradley, BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Chair
Martha Hanna, BFA Libraries Committee Chair
Mike Klymkowsky, BFA Student Affairs Committee Chair Pro-Tem
Joe Rosse, Former BFA Chair
David Kassoy, Retired Faculty Association Representative
Horst Mewes, Arts and Sciences Council Chair
Carly Robinson, CUSG Vice President for Internal Affairs
Bill Kaempfer, Vice Provost, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Planning
Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator

Special Guests

Irene Griego, Regent
Joey White, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor
Emily Calhoun, Faculty Ombuds
Lee Potts, Faculty Ombuds

Not Attending

Bill Emery, BFA Vice Chair
Steven Koenig, President, United Government of Graduate Students

The BFA Executive Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, January 23, 2012 in ATLAS Room 200. Chair Jerry Peterson presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 and adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

I. Special Report and Introduction: Regent Irene Griego

Peterson introduced CU's new Regent, Dr. Irene Griego.

Griego gave a brief history of her career in education, spanning 38 years, and reported that her focus has been to work collaboratively with administration, teachers, and staff. She stressed that faculty are the heart of the University.

In the discussion that followed, Griego reported she places great importance on listening to multiple perspectives, supporting innovation and collaboration, and developing new learning and new ways of governing. Griego added that she sees herself as primarily a messenger and a partner, sharing with the community the outstanding work of the University.

II. BFA Chair's Report

- A. National Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics. Peterson reported on his attendance at the COIA meeting in Tulsa over the weekend, where three topics were under discussion:
- i. The possibility of creating a source and structure to provide \$2,000 annually to varsity athletes. COIA did not approve the idea. [Bradley noted that the funds would be provided only if the stipend already received by the student does not cover their costs.]
 - ii. Changing eligibility for freshmen to prevent their competing with upperclassmen. COIA did not approve the idea.
 - iii. The legal ramifications of putting a cap on certain financial aspects within Intercollegiate Athletics, such as coaches' pay. Such a cap is thought to be a 'restraint of trade.' This issue may come before congress.
- Peterson requested discussion on how involved the BFA should be in the coming nationwide athletics reforms. The Executive Committee agreed it should provide leadership on the issues, and will schedule time for the issues in future meetings.
- B. Coalition of Pac-12 Faculties. The Coalition, which formed last October at a meeting on the Boulder Campus, will next meet in Seattle in March.
- C. State of Colorado Legislative Initiatives. Initiatives this year that might affect CU:
- i. A bill proposing that institutions of Higher Education be explicitly allowed to offer multi-year employment contracts to non-tenure-track faculty.
 - ii. A bill proposing that the CCHE develop "Prior Learning Assessment" criteria, for granting college credit for 'real world' experience. There is also a separate bill to limit that type of credit to coursework performed in the military.
 - iii. Two firearms bills, which would allow citizens to carry concealed weapons without a permit.

Discussion followed. Peterson opined that, even if the State begins to require campuses to allow concealed weapons on campus, a faculty member could ban concealed weapons in his or her classroom, as an exercise of academic freedom rights.

III. Annual Report: Faculty Ombuds Lee Potts and Emily Calhoun

Lee Potts reported that former Ombuds Larry Singell has retired, and introduced new Ombuds Emily Calhoun, who has been a Chair of Faculty Council, a Privilege and Tenure mediator, and an Associate Vice President. In the latter capacity she worked on faculty personnel policies and collaborated closely with the Vice President of Faculty Affairs on faculty issues.

Potts reminded the Committee that the BFA created the Faculty Ombuds in 1997. She then provided a handout of the Ombuds' annual report [available on line at Ombuds.Colorado.edu], and summarized key features of what their office does. The Faculty Ombuds:

- are confidential (except when there is imminent risk of harm to people or property) and therefore do not report (for example, allegations of discrimination or harassment),
- work informally with faculty members to manage workplace conflicts (helping people

- define their goals, identify possible options, think aloud about the pros and cons of each option, but never telling someone what they ‘should’ do),
- function as neutrals and therefore do not take sides in disputes,
 - conduct mediated conversations, on a voluntary basis, between a faculty member and any other members of the university community,
 - offer practical consultations in support of successful academic careers,
 - assist faculty in understanding university policies and procedures and in knowing what faculty can do to ensure that procedures work fairly and equitably, as intended,
 - offer one-on-one coaching in communicating effectively, dealing with difficult conversations, responding to uncivil behavior, and related concerns, and
 - are independent of the University's administration.

Calhoun emphasized the importance to her of the Ombuds’ neutrality. Her own focus as an Ombuds is to approach problems from a practical, problem-solving perspective.

Potts noted that many who need the Ombuds’ services do not pursue them, and requested the Executive Committee’s input on overcoming that challenge. Discussion followed.

Potts reported that the physical location of the office is on East Campus, in the ARC building room 25, and that the office phone number is 303-492-1574.

IV. Committee Update – BFA Nominations and Elections Committee

Committee Chair Catherine Kunce distributed drafts of the nomination and balloting announcements, to be sent to the Senate. The nomination announcement will be distributed this week. The nominations deadline is February 17th. Ballot will begin after that date and end in about mid-March. The Committee has developed a new, on-line balloting system using Qualtrics, a web-based survey software for which the Campus has purchased a site license. Using Qualtrics will save money and will allow the BFA to protect voter’s confidentiality while also ensuring the integrity of the voting process.

Kunce introduced discussion of whether the BFA should use an all-electronic balloting system, or use a hybrid process that would allow faculty to continue to vote on paper or via e-mail if they are not comfortable voting on-line. Discussion followed. Concerns included that the hybrid system cannot provide totally confidential voting, and that all-electronic voting may skew the results.

Moved by Melinda Piket-May and second by Paul Chinowsky that the BFA use an all-electronic balloting method this year.

It was suggested that, after the election is complete, the BFA analyze the response rate compared to prior elections, which used paper ballots, email voting, or both.

The motion passed with ten in favor.

V. New Business – New Boulder Campus Alcohol Policy and related personnel

Peterson requested discussion on two topics:

- the new Boulder Campus Alcohol Policy enforcement officer, and
- whether the Campus could benefit from having a Faculty Club in the University Club Ballroom.

Discussion followed.

VI. Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.