

## **Executive Committee Meeting**

**Monday, January 31, 2005**

The Chair asked for the committee's guidance on how to answer questions from the press regarding the possibility of Ward Churchill's removal as chair of Ethnic Studies. Interim Chancellor Phil DiStefano announced that Arts & Sciences Dean Todd Gleeson accepted Churchill's resignation as Ethnic Studies chair effective today, January 31. The Regents scheduled an emergency session for 3:00p.m. Thursday, February 3 at Fitzsimmons in Denver and DiStefano emphasized the importance of having faculty present at this meeting in order to defend freedom of speech and preserve academic freedom for all faculty. Bintliff offered to write a letter to state that while the faculty hold widely divergent views and while many do not agree with Churchill's statements the faculty absolutely agree with his right to state his views, with the university as a place of debate.

DiStefano said he was concerned about the budget and specifically the cost of out-of-state tuition. Ric Porreca, Chair of the Athletic Director Search Committee, arrived and gave an update on the committee's process with the goal of hiring a new athletic director by June or July. Bintliff reiterated the message developed last spring by the BFA which focuses on academics as the primary mission of campus and that athletics is part of and not separate from the campus. Changes and reforms need to be instituted and have time to work and that the changes made through the BFA's instigation must stay in place.

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