

MINUTES OF THE 26 OCTOBER 2005 MEETING

BFA FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Our next meeting will be on November 16, 2005 at 6:30p.m. at Paul Levitt's house. Dinner will be served.

1. Adrienne Anderson spoke to the committee. On the basis of what she said, the committee has directed me to ask Jim White to attend our next meeting. Anderson's disclosures about industry and government meddling in university affairs are disconcerting; hence it is important that we give Prof. White an opportunity to reply. We would also like to get Betsy Hoffman to attend, since she was the recipient of a number of letters from the governor's office.
2. In the interest of strengthening academic standards, the committee recommends, as a means to test the relationship between grades and FCQs, a two-year moratorium on FCQs. (When Hank Brown appeared before the executive committee, he said that he would support such a move).
3. The committee, responding to a complaint about Senior Surveys, which are often used as a vehicle for hateful comments, would like to know the function of these surveys.

In light of the revelation that the comments on FCQs will now be made available to chairs and deans, the committee worries about confidentiality, and, equally important, it would like to see the university engage in a wide-ranging discussion of how to evaluate teaching. Currently the three measurements—FCQs, peer review, and letters solicited from students—don't fully characterize the person under scrutiny. Surely we have the imagination to find additional gauges.

4. Charles Sweet has no objection to our requesting grievance committees for the Boulder campus; namely, one for P&T and one for Salary. Last year, the Faculty Affairs Committee put forth a motion to this effect. The motion seems to have died in transit.

We are also pressing Charlie on the age waiver. It has not, as Charlie previously told us, been expunged from the retirement contracts.

5. Finally, we will be pursuing the matter of merit evaluations and their relationship to salaries, salary compression, and skims. With regard to the last matter, the issue is: Should the faculty have a say in how much the administration skims, and within departments should faculty have a say in how much their chair and/or salary committee skims? In departments, matching outside offers is usually not discussed with the faculty;

the decision is most often decided between the chair and the dean. The question of skims will loom large at our next meeting.

PML