

Executive Committee
Boulder Faculty Assembly
Minutes
May 3, 1999

Attending:

Chair John W. Daily, Vice Chair Bob Schulzinger, Secretary Barbara Bintliff, BFA at-large reps Cathy Comstock and John Cooper, BFA Academic Affairs Committee Chair Martha Jo Sani, BFA Budget and Planning: Faculty Benefits and Compensation Chair Sanjai Bhagat, BFA Communications Committee Chair Tom Geers, BFA Student Affairs: Intercollegiate Athletics Chair Michael Preston, BFA Chair Elect Frank Beer, UCSU Academic Affairs Student Rep Trey Lyons, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Bill Kaempfer, UCSU Tri-Executive Lynea Hansen, Silver and Gold reporter Jeff Dodge, Daily Camera reporter Nadia White

Not attending:

BFA Budget & Planning Committee Chair Uriel Nauenberg, BFA Diversity: Committee on Women Co-Chairs Chonin Horno-Delgado and Carla Farsi, BFA Faculty Affairs Committee Chair Yolanda Maloney, ASC Chair Jeffry Mitton, BFA Infrastructure: Libraries Committee Chair Steven Bruns

A meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly Executive Committee was held on Monday, May 3, 1999, in Porter Biosciences Room B121. Chair John W. Daily presided. The meeting convened at 3:30 p.m. and adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

A. Approval of Minutes

MOVED by Michael Preston and seconded by Barbara Bintliff that the minutes of April 19 and of April 26, 1999 be approved.

The motion carried.

The BFA Executive Committee minutes will be forwarded to the BFA, Jeff Mitton, and UCB administrators each week after approval.

B. Report from Chair Daily

Congratulations

Daily reported that CU Professors Dick McIntosh of MCD Biology and Charles DePuy of Chemistry have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, and that a letter of congratulations from the BFA will be sent to each of them.

Football Coach

John Daily reported that he has received a letter in response to the BFA's request for clarification of the process of hiring football coaches at CU. Discussion followed. There was debate over the issue of whether the BFA's original questions had been addressed. The letter is available via the BFA office.

C. Special Reports

Electronic Voting

UCSU Tri-Executive Lynea Hansen gave a short presentation on UCSU's method of voting, "I-Vote" (Interactive Vote). Hansen stated that campaigning has proven to have more of an impact on voter turnout in student elections than the method of voting has had. Hansen noted that the back end of I-Vote is run by ITS and that anonymous passwords for student voters are made possible by the ability of I-Vote to cross reference with CU's Student Information Systems database.

Discussion followed. Barbara Bintliff suggested that, were the BFA to institute electronic voting, CU's payroll database may be cross-referenced to provide faculty voters with anonymous passwords. John Cooper stated that a system of electronic voting for the BFA would have the additional benefit of allowing efficient and anonymous polling of the faculty on issues of interest to the administration and to the BFA.

UCSU's Course Forgiveness Policy Proposal

Trey Lyons and Lynea Hansen stated that currently, it is the policy of the University of Colorado to allow students to repeat classes, but that grades for both classes are then recorded on the student's transcript as well as being calculated into the student's GPA. Lyons reported that the essence of UCSU's Course Forgiveness Policy Proposal is that the repeated class would not be counted in the student's GPA, but would remain on the transcript. Lyons provided the committee with a chart comparing Course Forgiveness policies at AAU Peers and Big XII schools.

Discussion followed. Bob Schulzinger requested that more information on the impact of such a policy be provided. John Cooper asked if a notation would appear on the student's transcript noting which grades were not counted in the calculation of the student's GPA. John Daily stated that such a policy may need to be instituted system-wide. Martha Jo Sani stated that the Academic Affairs committee will examine UCSU's proposal, and perhaps bring a motion on this issue to the BFA in the fall. Frank Beer stated that UCSU may need to investigate the possible relationship such a policy would have to CU's Guaranteed Tuition program, and address the issue in its proposal. Trey Lyons requested that he be contacted with any further questions or comments (TreyLyons@aol.com).

D. Discussion

Academic Calendar Changes

Bill Kaempfer gave a short history of the development of the proposed Academic Calendar changes, noting the following: that the students had initially proposed making the changes; that the benefits of changing the calendar include the institution of a Fall Break, the compaction of the current Spring semester, and the possibility for CU to develop a "Maymester" (a short semester between Spring Commencement and the first day of Summer semester); and that the schedule that would allow these benefits to be instituted involve a 14 week and 4 day semester plus finals, and changing finals to two hours with 10 minute breaks between them.

Kaempfer reported that a Maymester will be possible in the spring of the year 2000, but that the proposed changes are not currently moving towards full implementation. Kaempfer noted that one possible reason for this is the impact the new schedule would have on the commencement calendar.

Discussion followed. Sanjai Bhagat and Bob Schulzinger stated their support of the new calendar developed by Kaempfer. John Daily noted that the Academic Calendar is the responsibility of the Faculty, and that ample precedents exist in Institutions of Higher Education in Colorado and nation-wide for the 14-week, 4-day semester. John Cooper registered his support for maintaining a 2.5-hour exam.

E. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly Executive Committee will be Monday, May 10th, in Room B121 in Porter Biosciences from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.