MINUTES
Boulder Faculty Assembly SPECIAL MEETING
May 16, 2013

Attendance
BFA Members Attending
Greg Camilli
Greg Carey
Paul Chinowsky
Bob Ferry
Sarah Goodrum
Carmen Grace
Jim Green
Vicki Grove
Aya Gruber
Asunción Horno-Delgado
Peggy Jobe
Dave Kassoy
Hun Shik Kim
Jennifer Knievel
Ruth Ellen Kocher
Jim Meiss
Shivakant Mishra
Carrie Muir
Rolf Norgaard
Adam Norris
Robert Parson
Cortlandt Pierpont
Karen Ramirez
Michael Ritzwoller
Jenny Rudy
Alex Sweetman
Steve Vanderheiden
Martin Walter
Ahmed White

Guests and Observers Attending
Sierra Swearingen, BFA Coordinator

The Boulder Faculty Assembly held a special meeting on May 16, 2013 in the University Club Lounge. Chair-Elect Paul Chinowsky presided. The meeting convened at 3:30 p.m. and adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

I. Introduction

Chinowsky stressed the need for faculty input to address the increasing challenges the Boulder Campus must confront. He then began a discussion of the BFA’s initiatives, priorities, and action items for the coming year. He commented that today is a working meeting: participants are asked to engage in discussion and decision-making.

Handouts in use at the meeting included:
• a matrix of focus areas and strategic objectives from the BFA’s study last year [available on line at http://tinyurl.com/p97zc8h], and
• PowerPoint slides of related tactics [available online at http://tinyurl.com/d8ke6x2].

II. Review and Develop Initiatives

Working from the matrix of focus areas and strategic initiatives, small groups developed an additional list of concepts and initiatives:

• Student recruitment and retention, especially Colorado students.
  o Collect and review existing data.
• Adjunct faculty - look at statistics on use of adjunct faculty.
• Broaden the definition of community to include (for example) the town and city, and other campuses.
• Enhance community inclusion and interaction. Change the definition of community to be more inclusive.
• Build trust and improve communication quality.
• Develop leadership; create a formal institute similar to but distinct from the Presidents’ Excellence in Leadership Program [https://www.cu.edu/eld/leadership/elp].
• MOOCs.
• Identify barriers and make plans to fix them.
• Create expectations for H.R. involvement in department personnel decisions (not just hiring).
• Improve faculty involvement in campus budget and planning decisions.
• Enrollment management, both at the front end, and over students’ time on campus.
• Develop a plan to improve student quality, then develop a strategy.
• Develop faculty governance guidelines. Establish written norms for faculty governance interaction with administration.
• Use BFA subcommittees to handle specifics of initiatives.
• Improve faculty public relations.
• Look at gender culture on campus.

Chinowsky reported that new BFA initiatives are already underway this summer:
• BFA members are being recruited now for a pilot program this fall: the Freshman Experience Program. The program is co-sponsored by the Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education, Michael Grant. Faculty in the pilot are asked to spend about two hours each month with a small group of freshmen.
• Develop a BFA Leadership Institute. More faculty want to be involved in governance than there are opportunities to do so. A BFA-sponsored institute will create more inclusion and involvement.
• A new BFA online presence will go live on July 1st. That plan will include a new BFA website, separate from the traditional BFA website, to include more substantive information. The plan includes multi-media, opportunities to collect and distribute data, interviews with faculty, faculty surveys on targeted topics, and connections to other platforms such as Twitter and FaceBook. The BFA will also create and control its own faculty e-mail list. The new web presence should be fully operational in time for fall semester.
• Monthly Town Hall-style events (but more interactive), for faculty to discuss various topics in a faculty club environment.

III. Prioritize Initiatives and Develop Action Items

Participants then created a list of more concrete initiative ideas:

• Undergraduate Experience
  o Improve the undergraduate experience, and recruitment and retention will take care of itself.
  o Publicly define the role of Higher Education in society.
  o Adapt MOOCs to level the playing field for incoming students.
  o Analyze how MOOCs will affect us.
• Analyze how to use MOOCs constructively.
• Analyze what can be done to improve job security, academic freedom, and pay for instructors, and then take action.
• Develop a more effective approach to measures of teaching evaluation. For example, we need a system that does not punish teaching methods that are proven effective but nevertheless result in low FCQs.

• Communication
  • Develop an expectation and a system for BFA committees to perform follow-up on BFA resolutions.
  • Locate pockets of excellence on campus and promote them.

IV. Conclusion and Action Steps

Chinowsky stated that the BFA should proceed this summer with creating working groups of faculty to be involved in creating plans and taking action on one or more of the priorities discussed today. Any faculty on campus could be recruited to participate in these Ad-Hoc groups. He commented that there should be four to five items ready for the BFA to pursue full-speed by the time school starts.

Chinowsky reported that he will review the lists developed today, and ask for feedback on priorities in the coming days.

Chinowsky commented that the BFA Standing Committees’ role with regard to this process is open: if one or more of the committees wishes to be involved in any of these initiatives this summer they are welcome, but the BFA cannot wait for the committees to begin meeting in September or October, to move ahead.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chinowsky adjourned the meeting at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.