MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting,
Boulder Faculty Assembly
August 27, 2012

Attending
Jerry Peterson, BFA Chair
Paul Chinowsky, BFA Vice Chair
Carmen Grace, BFA Secretary
Greg Carey, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Peggy Jobe, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Karen Ramirez, BFA Administrative Services & Technology Committee Chair
Jerry Rudy, BFA Budget and Planning Committee Chair
Adam Norris, BFA Instructor-Track Faculty Affairs Committee Co-Chair
Elizabeth Bradley, BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Chair
Robert Parson, BFA Libraries Committee Chair
Mike Klymkowsky, BFA Student Affairs Committee Chair Pro-Tem
David Kassoy, Retired Faculty Association Representative
Joe Rosse, Former BFA Chair
Robert Ferry, Arts and Sciences Council Chair
Bill Kaempfer, Vice Provost, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Planning
Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator

Not Attending
Logan Schlutz, CUSG Vice President for Internal Affairs
Steven Koenig, UGGS President

Guests
Phil DiStefano, Chancellor
Russell Moore, Provost
John Sleeman, Managing Senior Associate Counsel
Kelly Fox, Senior Vice Chancellor and CFO
Frances Draper, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Relations

The BFA Executive Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, August 27, 2012 in Norlin Library Room N410. Chair Jerry Peterson presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 and adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

I. Chair’s Report

a. New Faculty Orientation – Last week the BFA participated again in this important event. This year the BFA Chair addressed the new faculty as a part of the event’s regular program, and the response was very positive.

b. 24th Annual Boulder Chamber of Commerce CU Kick-Off Luncheon – The BFA has purchased 10 tickets for Executive Committee members to network with business leaders and athletics donors and promote the high quality of academics on the Boulder Campus.

c. President Benson to attend the BFA meeting on September 6th - BFA members are asked to send in questions in advance for the President, to the BFA Office, by Friday.

d. Commencement Committee – The BFA’s representative, Uriel Nauenberg, has stepped down. Michael Preston has agreed to take over the position.

e. New BFA Executive Committee Member – Jennifer Knievel has agreed to serve as Chair
of the BFA Diversity Committee this year. Please welcome Professor Knievel.

f. **Annual Salary Analysis** – The Provost has confirmed that the Campus plans to broadcast its annual salary announcements at the same time as the BFA’s analysis of salary data.

g. **New BFA Members’ Welcoming Lunch Tuesday, September 4th** – Next week the BFA will again host an informal box lunch for newly elected BFA members, to inform them about current issues and procedural matters.

h. **Executive Committee Minutes Approval Process** – Peterson asked for a summary of the minutes approval process.

   - Swearingen reported that she distributes drafts of the minutes first to each speaker and then to the Executive Committee’s email list, to request changes, corrections, and clarifications. Generally, recipients have three business days to respond, after which they will be presumed to have voted to ‘approve with no changes.’ Those who were not in attendance abstain. After speakers have made their revisions, enough positive votes have accumulated, and barring substantive revisions, the final minutes are distributed to the BFA email list and to a special list of campus administrators and staff. The BFA Office also posts the minutes online in the BFA’s website archive. The process to approve BFA minutes is identical.

i. **Alcohol Gift Accounts** – The Campus has a very limited ability to provide for alcohol at its events. The Campus has recently revised its alcohol policies and the BFA is very careful to follow them. Alcohol purchases may only be made using funds that have been donated for that particular purpose. The BFA has a very small alcohol gift fund which is slowly being depleted. Anyone may make a donation to the fund, but must follow campus policy with regard to the donation process. Please contact the BFA office if you want more information. [http://www.colorado.edu/events/plan/alcohol].

j. **BFA Involvement in the CU-Boulder Today on-line Newsletter** – This summer Frances Draper, Vice Chancellor for Strategic Relations, requested that the BFA provide content for the Campus’ new electronic newsletter. At that time the BFA Executive Committee discussed the possibility of each committee providing a short paragraph, to be collated with the others, and then forwarded to the Vice Chancellor for inclusion in the newsletter.

k. **BFA Chair’s Meetings with the Provost and the Chancellor** – Peterson requested that BFA members contact him with suggested topics for these one-on-one discussions.

II. **Fall Semester Executive Committee Strategy Discussion**

The Executive Committee continued its discussion on what issues the BFA could focus on this year. Suggested topics included:

- The Campus’ investments in, plans for, and new relocations to the East Campus.
- The Athletics Department’s plan for a new football training facility
- Distance learning. It was suggested that the Campus create an ad-hoc committee to research the effectiveness and viability of distance learning.
- Proposals and opportunities for the Coalition of Pac-12 Faculties.

Discussion followed. Peterson commented that no teaching faculty spoke at this year’s convocation. The Executive Committee decided that the BFA should request that the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs reserve time at convocation for a teaching faculty member to speak, and that the BFA would like that honor to be extended to an award-winning teacher, such
as a past BFA Teaching Excellence Award recipient.

III. Old Business

PRD - Professional Rights and Duties of Faculty Members and Department Chairs

Rosse reported that the Faculty Affairs Committee’s recent revision to the document has not yet been approved and is not in effect. Peterson asked that the revision be re-circulated to the Executive Committee, and reported that he will discuss the matter with the Provost.

BFA Committee Charges

BFA Vice Chair Paul Chinowsky gave a presentation outlining a broad proposal to the Committees. An outline of the proposal is as follows:

- A Proposed Charge to Committees (A Faculty Perspective on the University)
  - Committee Charge
    - Committees are the engine – we need to give them a boost
    - Committees address emerging issues
    - Committees have capacity
    - So, let’s coordinate some effort to maximize impact
  - The Changing Campus: A Faculty Perspective on the Changing and Emerging Campus (A BFA-Sponsored Report)
    - Education
      - Value added
        - What is the value added by a university environment; that is, face-to-face teaching & engagement?
      - Assessment
        - How do we assess effective teaching in a new environment? What is the impact of new teaching models on the faculty and university?
    - Faculty
      - Roles
        - How are faculty roles changing in the new university?
      - Evaluation
        - What are the appropriate ways to evaluate faculty?
    - Administration
      - Roles
        - What is the administration’s role from a faculty perspective?
      - Evaluation
        - What is the appropriate manner to evaluate administration from the faculty perspective?
  - Collaboration
    - Education – Student Affairs Committee
      - Faculty Affairs
      - Libraries
      - Budget
      - Technology
    - Faculty – Faculty Affairs and Academic Affairs Committees
- Student Affairs
- Budget
- Diversity
- Technology
  - Administration – Executive Committee
    - Faculty and Academic Affairs
    - Budget
    - Administrative Review
    - Student Affairs

- Strawman Schedule
  - Staffing - September 30
  - Issue Identification - October 31
  - Research Summary 1 – December 15
  - Research Summary 2 – January 31
  - General BFA Discussion – February
  - Draft Report – March 1
  - BFA Review and Edits – March and April
  - Final Report – May 1

- Issues Meeting
  - Facilitate Administration assistance and communication
  - Report Task Forces with issues have monthly meeting with appropriate administrators
  - Coordinate issues and responses

Discussion followed, including these perspectives:
- The BFA should take the lead on issues when possible, but also react when necessary. For example, the BFA should be prepared to answer the question “why should parents pay tuition for intro level classes that they can get for free online?”
- This proposal presents an opportunity for the faculty and the BFA to be more visible in Campus governance. The proposal could produce a series of three reports, or a larger report focusing on the three major headings. If the proposal itself is too ambitious to complete in one year, the BFA could instead follow its model to ‘get out ahead’ on one or more very important issues each year.
- It could be productive to focus on shorter, more action-oriented, persuasion pieces, rather than a single large report that may not get the attention it deserves.
- Any additional duties the committees take on as part of the proposal should be executed alongside each committee’s existing duties, which are extensive in many cases. One benefit of the proposal is that it will make public and visible the work that is already happening in the committees.
- The BFA’s budget for student assistants could be used to support the committees in pursuing the proposal’s objectives.
- The BFA proposed last year that it conduct surveys of the faculty on various topics, and these surveys could be helpful in pursuing the goals of today’s proposal.

Faculty Council Committees Members
BFA Secretary Carmen Grace presented the following faculty for Faculty Council Committees:
Rick Collins (Law), Educational Policy & University Standards Committee
Chonin Horno-Delgado (Spanish and Portuguese), Women’s Committee
Catherine Kunce (Program for Writing and Rhetoric), Women’s Committee

The Executive Committee approved these appointments without dissent.

IV. Special Report – Faculty Responsibilities With Regard to Concealed Weapons in Classrooms

Peterson welcomed Chancellor Phil DiStefano, Provost Russell Moore, University Counsel John Sleeman, Senior Vice Chancellor Kelly Fox, and Vice Chancellor Frances Draper.

Sleeman gave an overview of the recent history of the law as it relates to concealed weapons on Campus.

- Colorado’s Concealed Carry Act (the “Act”) does not specifically state that it applies to higher education. In order for a state statute to divest the Board of Regents of its constitutional authority to govern CU’s campuses that statute needed to specifically refer to higher education. Historically CU’s position has therefore been that since the Act did not specifically mention higher education, the Regents remained free to decide how weapons could be carried on campus, and could continue to prohibit concealed weapons notwithstanding the Act.
- In 2010, a group of students filed a lawsuit against CU to challenge the Regents’ then existing weapons policy. The students argued that the Act was of statewide concern and should therefore be enforced on CU’s Campuses.
- The trial court dismissed the students’ suit. The students appealed, and the Court of Appeals agreed with them, which allowed the original lawsuit to go forward. CU then filed an appeal with the Supreme Court of Colorado.
- In Spring 2012 the Supreme Court upheld the Appellate Court and ruled that the Act applies to CU, even though the Act does not specifically mention higher education. The Supreme Court’s decision states that the Regents do not have authority to contravene the Act, and must comply with the law along with all the other public higher education institutions in the State.

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:
- Sleeman reinforced that CU is subject to the law as stated in legislation and confirmed by the Supreme Court’s decision and CU must follow it, even if many do not agree with it. DiStefano reported that Colorado’s General Assembly may soon consider new legislation to address the issues raised by the Supreme Court’s decision.
- Sleeman assured those present that to comply with the law, anyone who holds a concealed carry permit is required to keep the weapon concealed.
- There were requests that the Campus continue to communicate as much as possible about these issues, to inform and reassure the faculty and the students.
- Sleeman stressed that safety on campus is of primary concern, and that the Campus should be aware of students that are exhibiting concerning behavior regardless of whether or not they may have a Concealed Carry permit. He added that faculty should take
advantage of the resources available on campus to assist with students of concern.

- DiStefano reported that the Campus has made several “FAQ” documents available online, and they will continue to be developed as more members of the community communicate their concerns to the Campus.
  - For Staff: http://hr.colorado.edu/Pages/ColoradoConcealedCarryAct.aspx
- Moore reported that the Campus is planning to hold a town-hall style event to increase communication on the issues raised by the Supreme Court’s decision.

V. Adjournment. The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 5:33.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.