MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting,
Boulder Faculty Assembly
September 24, 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
Adam Norris, BFA Instructor-Track Faculty Affairs Committee Co-Chair
Rolf Norgaard, BFA Instructor-Track Faculty Affairs Committee Co-Chair
Robert Parson, BFA Libraries Committee Chair
David Kassoy, Retired Faculty Association Representative
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
Karen Ramirez, BFA Administrative Services & Technology Committee Chair
Jerry Rudy, BFA Budget and Planning Committee Chair
Elizabeth Bradley, BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Chair
Mike Klymkowsky, BFA Student Affairs Committee Chair Pro-Tem
Joe Rosse, Former BFA Chair
Steven Koenig, UGGS President
Logan Schlutz, CUSG Vice President for Internal Affairs

Guests
Deb Coffin, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Kelly Fox, Senior Vice Chancellor and C.F.O.

The BFA Executive Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, September 24, 2012 in Norlin Library Room N410. Chair Jerry Peterson presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 and adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

I. Chair’s Report

a. Retirement Acknowledgement – The BFA has been asked to make a small financial contribution to a retirement party for a former BFA Chairman, Jerry Hauser, of the Communication Department.

Discussion followed. The Executive Committee agreed to support the event, and thereby establish a new tradition of providing a small amount of support for these events in future years, depending on the availability of funds in the BFA’s budget.

b. Colorado Faculty Advisory Committee (CFAC) – The BFA Chair attended a CFAC meeting last Friday. Every institution in the State has a member of this organization, which has a relationship with the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. At its meeting, CFAC distributed a draft of the CCHE’s new Master Plan. CCHE plans to vote on the draft at its next meeting, in early October.

Discussion followed. It was agreed that the BFA Office will distribute the draft to the Executive Committee for feedback via email, and that the BFA Chair will
deliver responses to Faculty Council Chair Melinda Piket-May. Kelly Fox agreed to forward the Executive Committee’s request for a delay in the Master Plan process, which would allow the CCHE time to consider faculty input into the process. Other topics at the CFAC meeting included student preparedness, and the appropriate timing for institutions to drop non-paying students.

c. 500 Foot Rule – A group of Boulder residents has resumed discussion of this rule, which would ban the presence of retail alcohol establishments within 500 feet of Campus. Discussion followed. Coffin reported that the Campus has discussed this, and several other methods of managing alcohol-related issues near campus. Coffin welcomed feedback on the subject.

d. Concealed Weapons on Campus – There was discussion of possible responses to the recent Supreme Court ruling that requires the Campus to allow students to carry concealed weapons on campus. The Executive Committee requested that the BFA Office distribute the text of the BFA’s “Motion Regarding a Weapons-Free Campus,” approved by the BFA April 19, 2010. [Available on line at http://tinyurl.com/8djfqc8.]

II. Special Discussion – Honor Code Program Review

Peterson introduced Deb Coffin, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Coffin thanked the BFA for its assistance with the Honor Code’s recent revision of its Policies and Procedures. She then reported that:

- About three years ago Coffin initiated a change in Student Affairs to implement a program review for its departments, using a set of professional benchmark standards for student services, established by the Council on the Advancement of Standards and professional associations.
- The Honor Code has been operating for a few more than ten years. Student Affairs would like to establish a seven-year program review cycle for its departments. The Honor Code review process is still in its early stages.
- Student Affairs has established a council to participate in the Honor Code review, including representatives from every school and college, and including BFA Student Affairs Committee Chair Mike Klymkowsky. The council also includes student members of the Honor Code.

Coffin then asked whether there are specific questions or issues the BFA would like to see examined in the review, in addition to the benchmark standards.

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:

- Coffin reported that data on use of the Honor Code is flat, even though national data shows that cheating is increasing. The review will therefore ask whether anything interferes with our faculty’s use of the system. She added that the review will include two subject-matter experts from other universities.
- It was suggested that, with UCB’s growing number of international students, the Honor Code should provide training, materials and services for the students but also for faculty and Honor Code panel members with regard to cultural sensitivity.
• It was suggested that the Honor Code develop a series of cases for discussion by incoming students, to improve their understanding of academic honesty and cheating.
• Coffin reported that faculty are usually in agreement with the Honor Code review panels, but it remains unclear what would happen when a faculty member does not agree with a review panel’s decision. Faculty members often have insight that the Honor Code reviewers do not have, especially in certain disciplines. Some campuses involve a greater number of faculty in their Honor Code systems.

Coffin agreed to work with the BFA Student Affairs Committee to develop further faculty input as the process continues.

III. Special Report – Budget Update

Peterson introduced Senior Vice Chancellor and C.F.O. Kelly Fox.

Fox gave a brief report on current budget conditions in the State, including these comments:
• It is too early in the year to project how the State’s budget situation will evolve. This year there appears to be a small uptick in overall state revenues but these must be treated as temporary dollars.
• The Boulder Campus is experiencing a small “downtick” in enrollment this year (about 1.7%). The Campus will need to figure out how to handle this issue in the coming months.
• This year’s enrollment may reflect a changing recruiting environment for instate students, in which CU must compete with a very large increase in the number of out of state schools recruiting in Colorado. A more robust merit aid program could help offset their influence.

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:
• It is not yet known whether CU’s joining the Pac-12 Conference resulted in an increase in applicants from California.
• It was suggested that CU begin recruiting younger students, to offset the fact that that top schools begin recruiting efforts much earlier, in their freshman and sophomore years.
• Fox reported that Colorado appears to be in a one-to-two year uptick with regard to its revenue, but will run out of resources within a few years. The problem is driven in part by TABOR and Amendment 23, but also by Colorado’s aging population. CU is planning to manage the problem by diversifying its resources. A major review of CU’s fundraising is also planned for the near future.

Peterson thanked Fox and offered the BFA’s assistance.

IV. Old Business

BFA Faculty Focus Study

Paul Chinowsky reminded the Committee of its chosen Theme for this year – “How faculty roles are changing in the new university,” and asked that the committees work on producing
a rough draft. He added that time has been reserved in the BFA Agenda for October 4th, which could allow some committees to show a slide or two of their responses to the theme.

Chinowsky also requested that each committee also produce a rough idea of its agenda for this year, and share that information internally with the Executive Committee, to help avoid overlapping agendas, to help keep the committees on track, and to support committees’ consistency and focus as their members come and go.

V. New Business

Regents’ Request for Nominations for University Honors

Peterson distributed a handout of a CU Connections article on the Regents’ request for nominations for University honors. [On line at http://connections.cu.edu/news/board-of-regents-seeking-award-nominees/] Honors include honorary degrees, the University Medal, and distinguished service awards. Peterson proposed that the BFA become a nominator or sponsor for one or more of these awards.

Discussion followed. Peterson requested that committee chairs develop a list of possible nominees. The nomination deadline is November 15th. Nominations must be accompanied by the nomination form. [Available on line at https://www.cu.edu/regents/Awards/.

Ideas for the Pac-12 Coalition of Faculties Meeting October 20th.

Peterson reminded the Committee of the upcoming meeting of the Pac-12 Coalition of Faculties, and requested discussion of possible opportunities for collaboration.

Discussion followed.
- Parson reported that the Libraries Committee will meet in mid-October, and will consider possible initiatives.
- Suggestions included inter-institution transfer credits, and MOOCs (‘massive, open, on-line courses’).

VI. Adjournment. The Executive Committee adjourned the meeting at 5:25.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.