Boulder Faculty Assembly Minutes, October 3, 2013

I. Chair’s Report

Chinowsky reported that next year the Boulder Campus will return to an academic calendar that includes Reading Days, in part by moving commencement to Saturday.

He then gave an update on the BFA’s current initiatives:
- Materials are available now on the BFA website to help BFA members spread the word about the package of BFA initiatives this year. Click here to download a brochure - www.colorado.edu/BFA/INITIATIVES/BFA_Package13-14.pdf. The BFA is working with administration on how to institutionalize some of these. The
BFA Faculty Mentoring Students program is in full swing, is proving popular, and about 100 groups have met since the program began.

- The BFA has begun talking to departments directly. The BFA Chair will attend several department meetings this year to discuss BFA initiatives. Contact him at Paul.Chinowsky@colorado.edu to invite him to your department.
- This week the BFA kicked off our Faculty Service Recognition Program. Recipients each receive a letter of acknowledgement from the BFA Chair and the Provost, copied to their department chairs, and will also receive a small gift. Nomination form: www.Colorado.edu/BFA/INITIATIVES/Recognition.html. This week’s recipients are:
  - K.T. Mahanthappa, Physics
  - Marcus Henry, Theatre and Dance
  - William Kuskin, English
- The BFA is kicking off two new Ad-Hoc committees this week –
  - to build on the A&S Council’s Academic Quality Initiative, and
  - to build a faculty communications center online.

II. Special Report and Discussion: New College for Media, Communication & Information

Chinowsky introduced Chris Braider and Merrill Lessley.

Braider gave an overview of plans for the new college, which will include seven academic units: Journalism, Advertising, Design, Strategic Communications, Media Studies, Communication, Intermedia Digital Arts Writing and Performance, Program in Media Production, and Information.  [Addendum: mission statement.] He added that the final proposal for the new college is due to the Regents by March 1, there will be a college by midsummer, and it will open its doors in fall of 2014.

A discussion and question-and-answer session followed.

III. Motion for Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Chinowsky reminded the BFA that last spring Martin Walter had proposed the BFA support a CUSG referendum that indicated the student body is in favor of CU divesting itself from fossil fuels.

Walter then initiated a conversation on the subject. He reported that an Ad-Hoc BFA committee is forming to do so and requested that those who wish to be involved contact him at Martin.Walter@colorado.edu.

Discussion included whether a fiscal analysis has yet been performed. At issue is how the University would make up the lost revenue from divesting in fossil fuels.

It was suggested the matter be referred to the Student Affairs Committee.
IV. Discussion and Update on Development of BFA Initiatives and Working Groups

BFA Teaching Evaluation Group:

- Chinowsky reported that last spring the BFA began talking about multiple measures of teaching evaluation. The AAU has selected the CU Boulder Campus as one of eight sites to look at effective means of teaching evaluation, and analyze how to improve and/or enhance it. The BFA is a partner in that grant and will create a focus group to address improving teaching evaluation methods. The BFA Faculty Affairs committee is to lead this effort.
- Faculty Affairs Committee Chair Ted Stark requested input on what faculty have witnessed in their own departments, and what has been effective and ineffective.

Discussion followed. It was agreed that the next BFA meeting could include a special break-out session for faculty in each discipline to discuss what kinds of teaching measures would be most effective in that discipline.

Chinowsky reported that the AAU grant has specific deliverables and deadlines. The next update is due on November 15th, as a report to the Chancellor and the Provost on plans to proceed.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chinowsky adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.
MISSION STATEMENT:

COLLEGE OF MEDIA, COMMUNICATION, AND INFORMATION

The College of Media, Communication, and Information (CMCI) prepares students for careers as engaged and effective citizens endowed with deep understanding of the historical and contemporary context of human communication and expression. Challenging the conventional picture of communication as passive transmission, CMCI trains graduates to study and practice constructive interaction among people, communities, industries, and publics. The College equips its graduates with the skills needed to produce, gather, archive, curate, analyze, and evaluate the flood of information, messages, images, sounds, and ideas that populate our complex and rapidly evolving global media landscape. To these ends, CMCI resourcefully combines disciplines newly extended and empowered by digital media and the social and cultural transformations those media engender. These include established scholarly, creative, and professional fields such as media studies, communication, the history and interpretation of film and television, journalism, advertising, and video production in its cinematic, documentary, and broadcast forms. But the College also houses both the fast-growing field of information studies, a discipline that, through inquiry and innovation, tackles the problems and opportunities facing a networked society, and the emergent disciplines of intermedia art, design, music, writing, and performance.

In giving these activities a collaborative home, CMCI facilitates innovative interactions among them. Its academic structure accordingly stimulates cross-disciplinary cooperation at all levels of curriculum, research, and creative work. Further, CMCI promotes the transformational exchanges it nurtures within its own walls for campus-wide benefit. Its organization thus fosters outreach to—and student and faculty participation from—other schools, colleges, centers, and facilities throughout CU-Boulder and the wider Colorado community.