The Boulder Faculty Assembly Executive Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, October 29, 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. Coalition of Pac-12 Faculties – The Coalition met on October 20th at the University of Utah Campus in Salt Lake City. Ten of the twelve institutions participated. Discussion included a comparison of faculty governance structures and operations; funding challenges; the role of non-tenure track faculty; the involvement in governance of researchers; and MOOCs (Massive On-line Open Courses). Questions and issues include who owns the intellectual property of a MOOC, who is liable in case MOOC materials include legally actionable material (such as libel), completion rates, and whether the faculty can or should control MOOC curricular decisions.

b. Administrative Policy Statements (APS) Under Review – Faculty Council is currently reviewing and revising several policy statements, and has requested campus feedback. Revisions (and justifications for them) are available on line at www.cu.edu/policies/aps-under-review.html. Policies to be revised include:
• 1006-Differentiated Annual Workloads for Faculty (Tentative)
• 1011-Professional Plan for Faculty (Tentative)
• 1014-Intellectual Property That is Educational Materials
• 1018-Justification for Appointment with Tenure (Outside Hire w/ Tenure)
• 1020-Tenure Accountability
• 1025-Uniform Grading Policy
• 8002-Intercampus Concurrent Enrollment
c. New APS on Employment Contracts for Instructors – As a result of new legislation in the State of Colorado the University is composing a new APS for multi-year employment contracts for instructors. The new policy allows contracts of up to 3 years, beginning in fall semester 2013.

Discussion followed. It was reported that for several years the Campus has offered letters of agreement to instructors for periods of up to five years, and that this new legislation may have ended the Campus’ right to do so.
d. Academic Excellence – Last week’s Faculty Council retreat focused much attention on the topic of how to preserve, promote, and improve CU’s academic excellence.
e. Fall Break – Peterson introduced a discussion as to whether the Campus could consider making adjustments to its academic calendar, to reduce the negative impacts of Fall Break. Discussion followed, including these concepts:

The over-arching question underlying the issue was whether Fall Break has, on balance, improved instruction in spite of its awkward position in the calendar: Spring Break is after the 10th week of classes, while fall break is after the 12th week of classes, and this is seen by many as too closely followed by final exams. Related discussion included re-implementing reading days, which many agreed was of greater importance than concerns about Fall Break. Comer reported she will canvass some students and report her findings to the Executive Committee. It was agreed that the Faculty Affairs Committee will analyze the academic calendar for the best use of faculty and university time and resources, to the benefit of our students.

II. Committee Reports and Updates

Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee

Committee Co-Chair John McCartney reported that the Committee has met twice to discuss its goals for this year, and has consulted with a former Chair of the Committee, Greg Carey, about the history of the Committee. The Committee will focus on dependent tuition benefits this semester, and has noted a large inconsistency between tuition benefits at CU’s campuses. (The Boulder Campus offers the benefit for summer semesters only.)

Discussion followed.

Administrative Services and Technology Committee

Committee Chair Karen Ramirez reported that the Committee met recently with Paul O’Brien of O.I.T. (Office of Information Technology), who has requested help with locating
faculty to test the usability of the Campus’ new online platform, MyCUInfo. Ramirez requested nominations of potential testers via email to her or to Sierra. She added that by spring semester, MyCUInfo will be the only online platform in use on Campus, because My.CU.edu is being retired.

Ramirez reported that the Committee’s discussions for the BFA Faculty Focus Study have centered mostly on the subject of online education, and that the Committee would like to hear a report from the system-wide committee that has formed to address that topic.

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:
- Michael Lightner is Chair of the system-wide on-line education committee.
- None of CU’s existing online courses’ outcomes are assessed. Instead, students’ grades are compared with those in traditional classrooms.
- There were questions about VIVO, an on-line resource that allows faculty to locate fellow faculty members by the subject area of their disciplines and research interests.
- It was suggested that, in addition to a study of MyCUinfo, the MyLeave system should be reviewed, which may have significant usability problems of its own. Ramirez responded that MyLeave is a system-wide service, run outside of OIT. Stark volunteered to participate in a study of MyLeave, if CU decides to pursue one.

Budget and Planning Committee

Committee Chair Jerry Rudy reported that the committee has been meeting regularly this semester, and is facing particular challenges because of a significant shortfall compared to budget projections. The campus is managing the shortfall but the Campus must begin generating significantly more revenue, about $200 million more over the next five years.

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:
- The Campus is facing a tuition shortfall this year due to a smaller-than-expected increase in enrolled students. Those numbers may ‘recover’ in spring semester, as students return to school after taking time off to work for political campaigns.
- Part of the shortfall is being accommodated by postponing projects.
- The Campus should work on increasing retention, and on attracting top students. Campus enrollment generally should get more faculty attention, to ensure that academics figure prominently in the details of enrollment.
- It was suggested that an important component of recruiting and retention is the campus climate for Diversity issues, including socio-economic factors.
- It was agreed that the BFA needs data about student recruitment and retention in order to address retention issues.

Diversity Committee

Committee member Dena Smith reported that this year’s Diversity Summit will occur November 13th through 15th and will include several speakers and panelists.

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:
Few Faculty and Administrators ever attend and participate in the summit.

- It was suggested that many faculty feel that their efforts to support diversity on campus by working one-on-one with students is more valuable than their attendance at the annual Summit.
- Smith welcomed suggestions as to alternative vehicles and mechanisms for improving campus diversity.
- It was suggested that departments sometimes do not acknowledge faculty members’ diversity-related activities.
- Discussion mirrored comments made during the Budget and Planning Committee’s report, that the BFA needs more data before it can address the ‘retention’ issue. It was suggested that the faculty conduct a study of all first-year students about their experience to help determine what works to retain students and what does not. The survey should include a component on Diversity.

III. New Business

Peterson suggested the Campus adopt new nomenclature for its descriptions of faculty activities, replacing the word “service” with the word “leadership.”

Discussion followed. The Committee agreed to discuss the matter further at a future meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.