MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting,
Boulder Faculty Assembly
November 14, 2011

Attending
Jerry Peterson, BFA Chair
Bill Emery, BFA Vice Chair
Catherine Kunce, BFA Secretary
Greg Carey, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Peggy Jobe, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Carmen Grace, BFA Academic Affairs Committee Chair
Karen Ramirez, BFA Administrative Services & Technology Committee Chair
Melinda Piket-May, BFA Diversity Committee Chair
Paul Chinowsky, BFA Faculty Affairs Committee Representative
Elizabeth Bradley, BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Chair
Martha Hanna, BFA Libraries Committee Chair
Mike Klymkowsky, BFA Student Affairs Committee Chair Pro-Tem
Joe Rosse, Former BFA Chair
David Kassoy, Retired Faculty Association Representative
Horst Mewes, Arts and Sciences Council Chair
Carly Robinson, CUSG Vice President for Internal Affairs
Bill Kaempfer, Vice Provost, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Planning
Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator

Special Guests
Bruce Benson, President, University of Colorado
Kathleen Bollard, Vice President and Academic Affairs Officer

Not Attending
Jerry Rudy, BFA Budget and Planning Committee Chair
Steven Koenig, President, United Government of Graduate Students

The BFA Executive Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, November 14, 2011 in ATLAS Room 229. Chair Jerry Peterson presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 and adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

I. Chair’s Report

A. Ad Hoc Committee to Review BFA Excellence Awards Procedures. The Committee will soon present to the Executive Committee revisions to the Awards’ procedural guidelines.

B. CU’s Football Victory. David Kassoy has proposed a motion to congratulate the team on its win over the weekend:

Moved by David Kassoy and seconded by Greg Carey that the BFA Executive Committee approve the following resolution:
The motion passed with none opposed.

C. Diversity Summit. CU held its 17th Annual Diversity Summit last week.
   i. Melinda Piket-May, Chair of the BFA Diversity Committee, reported that the keynote session with speaker Alma R. Clayton-Pedersen and the three plenary sessions were well attended. She reported that few faculty participated in the BFA’s roundtable sessions however, and suggested a make-up session be held at a future meeting of the BFA to get the faculty’s input into diversity issues.

II. Special Report: CU President’s Office, President Bruce Benson

After introductions Benson gave an update on the University from the perspective of the President’s Office. In a combined report and discussion session he made the following points:

- CU’s annual budget is $2.82 billion this year. The State’s contribution is $147 million, and it will not likely be more than $135 million next year. The State may also reduce Financial Aid support by about $10 million. CU’s internal contribution to financial aid has increased over the last eight years from $38 million to $120 million, to ensure access for needy students.
- CU’s response to the State’s budget reductions has been a variety of initiatives to reduce expenses and increase revenue. Examples include:
  - Getting out of the State procurement system, which has saved millions annually.
  - Gradually increasing tuition, which is lower than that of most of CU’s peers, while also considering a four-year tuition guarantee for in-state students similar to that for out-of-state students. This may have the added benefit of improving graduation rates.
  - Reduced administration. CU is now 44% below its peers in administration costs.
  - Improve CU’s marketing. Examples include CU’s new brand identity, a greatly expanded e-mail distribution list for alumni contacts, social media, and a new network called “CU Advocates” with members who advocate for CU in various ways across the nation. Faculty are invited to sign up for CU Advocates at www.cu.edu.
  - Increased fundraising, which has been going very well this year. The Creating Futures Campaign has raised $1.04 billion so far, including private money for research.
  - Create new Professional Masters’ programs, which make money for the institution.
- CU’s move to the PAC-12 Football Conference has been very positive. Benefits include
opportunities for making connections with alumni, donors, and students in the PAC-12 states; and also major opportunities for research partnerships.

Peterson reported that in October the BFA hosted a meeting of Faculty Governance leaders from all the schools in the PAC-12, resulting in a new organization, the Coalition of PAC-12 Faculties.

There followed discussion about the future of Higher Education. Other topics, perspectives, and suggestions that were mentioned in the discussion included:

- Higher Education must promote the idea that it is valuable, especially among minority populations. The institutions must also work to make themselves more welcoming.
- CU should promote the high quality of its instruction.
- Higher Education must put more effort into ensuring that students are prepared for the workforce, and that degree programs can reasonably be completed within four years.
- Higher Education must do more to educate the public and inform students and their parents that the purpose of a college degree is not merely to find employment.
- CU should work harder to attract the best students, perhaps by raising admission standards.
- CU’s current students and recent graduates are often excellent ambassadors for the institution, and could be used to recruit students from their former high schools. CU’s alumni are also an excellent source of ambassadors.
- CU’s campuses should consider sharing their recruiting expertise. Higher Education Institutions statewide could do the same.
- CU should value teaching more than it does, given its commitment to its students.

The President requested that further ideas and feedback about the future of Higher Education be sent to him via e-mail.

The Executive Committee thanked Benson.

III. Special Report: Meeting Federal Regulatory Requirements for Grading

Bill Kaempfer, Vice Provost and Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget & Planning, made the following report:

- This semester (Fall 2011) the Registrar is implementing a new, three-tiered grade coding standard through ISIS for failing grades, due to changing Federal student aid requirements.
- The following description summarizes the ‘F’ grade process:
  - When an ‘F’ is assigned new codes will pop-up on the web grading sheet that require the faculty member entering the grade to select one of three options before the grade can be submitted:
    - “Attended Until Term Completed,” which is to be selected if the student completed the class but earned an ‘F.’
    - “Attended until _______,” which is to be selected if the student attended but stopped attending and failed to drop the class or withdraw from the University. This option requires the additional step of either entering the last date of attendance (if known), or entering the date of the student’s last academic activity, such as a quiz, exam, presentation, or iClicker entry. Failure to enter a date will create an error and prevent submission of the grade roster.
“Never Attended,” which is to be selected if, per Federal regulations, no attendance or academic activity can be documented.
  - These three codes will replace the two codes of XF (for never attended) and QF (for quit attending).¹
  - The number of grades that will likely require entry of a last date of attendance is about 500 or 600 per semester, campus-wide.
  - The EPUS Committee² has not been approached to consider the new grade coding standard because it does not change grading standards themselves or affect student transcripts.

The Executive Committee asked Kaempfer to make a similar report to the full BFA at its meeting on December 1st.

IV. Committee Items

BFA Faculty Affairs Committee, Chair Paul Chinowsky

Chinowsky reported that the Committee has been working up different scenarios for three initiatives, based on goals in the Campus’ Flagship 2030 plan:
  - An internal visiting faculty program, which would allow faculty to work in a different department for a semester or a year,
  - A formal program for interdisciplinary faculty seminars and collaborative projects.
  - Institutional support for international faculty exchanges; and international classes.

BFA Bylaws Committee, Chair Bill Emery

Emery reported that, while the proposed Bylaws changes have been approved by the BFA, a number of issues remain: some concepts are not clear enough for fair application of the rules, for example whether Research Assistants and Professional Research Assistants are or should be represented by the BFA.

Discussion followed. Chinowsky agreed to ask the Faculty Affairs Committee to consider the status of RAs and PRAs.

V. Adjournment. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.

¹ Step-by-step instructions on grading, including more details about this new change, and an FAQ document, can be accessed at http://registrar.colorado.edu/grading.
² CU’s Educational Policy & University Standards Committee, a subcommittee of the system-wide Faculty Council.