The Boulder Faculty Assembly held its regular meeting on December 6, 2012 in Wolf Law 204, concurrently with the Annual Meeting of the Boulder Faculty Senate. Chair Jerry Peterson presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

I. Chair’s Report - Jerry Peterson

a. Email re-vote on Concealed Weapons Resolution – At its December meeting the BFA passed a resolution in favor of returning to the Regents their decision-making power with regard to weapons on Campus. After the vote, there was a request that the BFA vote on the resolution again, due to lack of a quorum. The BFA therefore requested a vote via email, which is allowed by the Bylaws. The vote attained a quorum and passed, and the approved resolution has been forwarded to concerned parties.
b. **Executive Committee Motion Supporting Academic Excellence in Athletics** – Last week the Executive Committee passed a resolution of support for Academic Excellence in Athletics, which the Chancellor was able to present at a critical meeting this week with regard to the hiring process for the Campus’ new Football Coach.

c. **Tobacco on Campus** – CUSG is considering a resolution to ban either tobacco or smoking on the Boulder campus. The BFA passed a resolution in 2008 to restrict smoking on campus [BFA-R-030608, available at http://tinyurl.com/cqmxb9j].

d. **BFA Excellence Awards Nominations Deadline** – The deadline for submitting nominations for BFA Excellence Awards is Monday, February 11th. Please consider making a nomination, and encouraging your colleagues to do so also. [Nomination instructions are on line, at http://www.colorado.edu/FacultyGovernance/awards/]

e. **BFA Winter Reception** – Reminder to please attend the BFA’s annual reception to acknowledge BFA members’ service to the Campus, and that the BFA Office has arranged for free parking at the U-Club for attendees this year.

f. **Revamped ISIS System** – Faculty Council heard a presentation today on ISIS (the Student Information System), indicating satisfactory faculty input. The system now has options for more centralized advising.

g. **CU System Website** – The CU System Website is also being redesigned.

II. **Old Business – Resolution Regarding the Faculty/Staff Tuition Benefit**

Peterson called the attention of the Assembly to the resolution, printed on the back of today’s agenda.

Peterson reported that the BFA Office issued an electronic Notice of Motion on November 14th, hoping to speed the approval process, because the Campus is in the middle of recruiting season. Peterson reported that the Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee has moved that the BFA approve the resolution, and being a motion from a committee, it does not require a second.

Discussion followed as to a collateral matter, the faculty/staff dependent scholarships. There was a request for information about the status of the scholarship funds, originally funded in part by a grant from the Athletics Department. Asunción Horno-Delgado, Co-Chair of the Faculty Compensation and Benefits Committee, offered to research the status of the Scholarships. There were questions as to the oversight and management of the program. It was reported that the Office of Financial Aid manages the funds.

Peterson proposed that the BFA provide a central location for faculty to get information about dependent scholarships available to them.

The motion to approve the resolution Regarding the Faculty/Staff Tuition Benefit passed with 30 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention.
III. Annual Meeting of the Boulder Faculty Senate

Welcoming Remarks

After calling the meeting to order, Faculty Senate Chair Paul Chinowsky welcomed members of the Senate in attendance, and reported that the agenda for the meeting includes two main features: a report from Athletics Director Mike Bohn, and the presentation of updates on the BFA’s Faculty Focus Study, on the Changing Roles of Faculty in the New University. The Study has involved input from all of the BFA’s Committees, and this year’s report is planned to be the first of several reports over the next few years, wherein the BFA will take a single topic and focus on it from each of its committee’s different perspectives. This year’s focus is on the Changing Roles of the Faculty: how is what we do different from what was being done twenty years ago. The Chancellor’s Executive Committee discussed the Study at its last meeting, and is interested in receiving the results.

Faculty Focus Study Update: Academic and Faculty Affairs Committee
Committee Chair Ted Stark reported that the main trend of the Committee’s discussion concerns academic excellence: how it is provided, and where the faculty fits into providing it. The Committee is taking a long view, looking back into the relatively distant past, to consider what actions universities performed or failed to perform then, to create scholarship in the United States. The committee notes especially that the recent trend has been to put more and more students into large lecture-style classes, moving away from a direct relationship between the faculty member and the student. The Committee believes this trend abandons the valuable instructional relationship in which faculty members gets to know each individual student, improving knowledge about how to instruct, mentor, and counsel that student.

Feedback is welcome, to Theodore.stark@colorado.edu.

Faculty Service Recognition

Chinowsky reported that discussions are happening now about appropriate recognition for faculty service, including the Chancellor, Faculty Council, the President, and the Regents. The tone of these conversations is that service recognition is uneven between academic units, between colleges, between campuses, and even between governance units. There is a desire for stronger recognition, and equal recognition, for faculty’s service outside of their departments. Chinowsky reported that he will call for discussion on the subject at the end of today’s Senate meeting.

Special Report: Opportunities for Cooperation Between Athletic and Academic Programs

Chinowsky welcomed Athletics Director Mike Bohn.

Bohn’s report included short descriptions of several programs:

- Participation in a Salute to Faculty half-time program.
- A review of the “coach of the day” program for Boulder Campus Faculty.
- Continuing to lead the Pac-12 in providing academic content for the Pac-12 network. Suggestions for content are welcome [to Mike.Bohn@Colorado.EDU], and Athletics can provide production services at no cost to the Campus.
- Luncheon discussions between faculty members and head coaches.
- Faculty engagement in recruiting. For example, recruiting for CU’s new Women’s Lacrosse has been extremely effective because of faculty involvement.
- Faculty brown-bag sessions with Athletics Staff and student athletes.
- Faculty posters at the club level at football games, and at basketball games.
- Athletics received a proposal to invest some of its Pac-12 revenue into the Libraries; however its budget is very fluid right now, in part because of low football ticket sales.

A question and answer session followed, including these points and perspectives:

- Bohn reported that Athletics is considering a renovation to address issues with egress and safety at the stadium; and other issues in Carlson Gym. No projects will move forward, however, until financing is resolved. He added that Athletics
is exclusively responsible for paying existing debt service, and is continuing to pay back its loan from the Campus, with interest. Its ability to pay will be significantly enhanced by joining the Pac-12: this year’s $9 million in conference revenue will increase to approximately $20 million next year.

- Bohn reported that the move to the Pac-12 Conference cost about $18 million, of which the Campus contributed $6 million. He added that Athletics also gets about $1.5 million annually from student fees, which are associated with a benefit to students, enabling them to buy low-cost tickets to see the games.
- Bohn reported that the renovation project may free space for classrooms and provide connections with the new Rec Center, but plans are tentative. Athletics will go through the same space-planning process as any other unit on Campus. Athletics is planning presentations on the plans to seek feedback from faculty.
- Bohn reported that when a coach’s employment contract is terminated, Athletics gives him or her a one-time payment, but may have to fund that payment by borrowing from other sources within the Athletics enterprise. The timeline for funding it depends significantly on ticket sales and donations. CU uses contracts which require relatively small buyouts compared to other Universities.’
- Bohn reported that Athletics added a new Women’s lacrosse team in part to satisfy the requirements of Title IX, but that other sports will not be added without rock solid financial funding or a major gift or endowment.
- The BFA’s representative from Environmental Design, Matt Jelacic, offered the assistance of Environmental Design and Architecture students to make schematic designs or provide other assistance for the renovation plans.
- Bohn reported that the Men’s Basketball game last night was the best-attended in history, and that the team has been receiving national recognition. He commented that Basketball revenues have been high this year but not enough to offset the falloff in revenue from Football ticket sales.
- It was reported that Athletics is the second-highest tuition payer on campus, after the Federal Government, paying about $8 million for students-athletes’ scholarships.

Chinowsky thanked Bohn for his report.

Faculty Focus Study Update: Student Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Mike Klymkowsky reported that:

- Campus issues with the Honor Code in the last few years have been resolved by a revision to the Honor Code’s Policies and Procedures [available on line at http://honorcode.colorado.edu/forms-resources]. He added that the Committee is currently reviewing the Graduate Students’ Bill of Rights and Responsibilities [available at http://www.colorado.edu/GraduateSchool/policies/billofrights.html].
- The Committee is also working to develop a resolution on coherent and effective advising on campus. Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Affairs Michael Grant is developing a new advising system that may address some of these concerns.
- The Committee is also developing a statement to promote an expectation that departments have coherent and effective curricula. The final statement will
capture the idea that students should be able to expect thoughtfully considered, realistic, and effective degree requirements; and will also acknowledge that maintaining coherent curricula requires an administrative commitment, including funding. A coherent curriculum is one in which each course is justified in terms of that major’s objectives, that standards are applied to all courses, including those on line, that audits ensure that goals are being attained by a majority of students, and that the results of those audits are used to reconsider and revise the major’s requirements.

- Input to these ideas is welcome, to Michael.Klymkowsky@colorado.edu.

Klymkowsky reported that much of the committee’s discussion in the Faculty Focus Study has centered on the need to re-establish the faculty’s contact with the students.

Discussion followed. There were concerns expressed that some courses might be planned to include solely pre-recorded lectures. There was a request that the move towards assessing curriculum include appropriate assessment of on-line courses. Klymkowsky commented that methods of assessment depend on discipline, and is contemplated here as a rolling process, with each department reviewed on, for example, a five-year schedule. He added that only disciplinary requirements are contemplated to be subject to the reviews, not core curriculum. It was suggested that the audits be folded in the existing departmental review process.

Klymkowsky requested feedback to him at Michael.Klymkowsky@colorado.edu.

Chinowsky encouraged BFA members to participate in their Committee’s contributions to the Faculty Focus Study, and reported that the BFA plans to produce a draft of this year’s Study by March, for presentation in April.

Discussion: Faculty Service Recognition

Chinowsky requested discussion on the subject of whether service to the Campus is appropriately valued and acknowledged.

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:

- The value of the Faculty’s contribution is in part the value that CU offers to the children of the State of Colorado, as a doorway into a modern world. The faculty represent all the different disciplines and avenues of endeavor, and working with them allows students who grow up in narrow, restricted environments to be exposed to the complexities of the world they are about to enter.
- Many academic units have minimal, or even zero service expectations in their instructors’ employment contracts. This presents a clear danger that instructors are being forced out of service and its vital connection to the University.
- Faculty service is necessary for institutional health. The most immediate route for faculty to understand administrative decisions, and thereby improve morale, is to promote their involvement in Campus-wide service.
- To be effective, faculty involvement in Campus governance must be timely. The
value of faculty involvement is discounted when the Campus community thinks that faculty service is not impacting important decisions.

- Service is more than about influencing administrative decisions. Service provides a key component of the many functions that the University must perform, in some cases because the Faculty is the University’s only resource available to perform them. Service is about engaging opportunities, not mere attendance.

New Business

Moved by Frank Beer that the BFA make recommendations concerning the future of the Athletics Department, no later than April 30, 2013.

Discussion followed. Beer commented the several of the BFA’s Committees might contribute, for example, Academic Affairs, Athletics, and Budget. Chinowsky suggested Beer attend a meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss the motion.

Adjournment of the Senate Meeting, and Resumption of the December BFA Meeting

Chinowsky adjourned the Annual Meeting of the Boulder Faculty Senate, and called the December BFA meeting back to order. BFA Chair Jerry Peterson then took the floor.

IV. New Business

BFA Chair Jerry Peterson proposed a new project for the BFA. He commented that faculty in their departments are generally very engaged in planning and leadership for the future of their departments. He proposed that the BFA take a similar approach to the future of the Boulder Campus, by taking an active, grass-roots stance in the Spring semester, to collect information from their department faculty on some of the themes of today’s Senate meeting. He repeated some of today’s themes, including the Role of Service in Leadership, Successes and Failures in the Electronic Education World and On-Line Opportunities, and extending Shared Governance into the Athletics Program. He suggested that by the end of the Spring semester, the BFA should have collected a set of faculty opinions about where the Campus will go in the future. He commented that the faculty are solely responsible for two themes that came up today: academic excellence, and the curriculum.

Discussion followed. It was suggested that the result of this process should produce a written statement declaring the faculty’s vision for the future of the institution.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Peterson adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator