MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting,
Boulder Faculty Assembly
February 13, 2012

Attending
Jerry Peterson, BFA Chair
Bill Emery, BFA Vice Chair
Catherine Kunce, BFA Secretary
Peggy Jobe, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Greg Carey, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Carmen Grace, BFA Academic Affairs Committee Chair
Karen Ramirez, BFA Administrative Services & Technology Committee Chair
Jerry Rudy, BFA Budget and Planning Committee Chair
Peggy Jobe, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Greg Carey, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Carmen Grace, BFA Academic Affairs Committee Chair
Karen Ramirez, BFA Administrative Services & Technology Committee Chair
Jerry Rudy, BFA Budget and Planning Committee Chair
Paul Chinowsky, BFA Faculty Affairs Committee Chair
Adam Norris, BFA Instructor-Track Faculty Affairs Committee Co-Chair
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
Steven Koenig, President, United Government of Graduate Students
Bill Kaempfer, Vice Provost, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Planning
Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator

Not Attending
Melinda Piket-May, BFA Diversity Committee Chair
Carly Robinson, CUSG Vice President for Internal Affairs

The BFA Executive Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, February 13, 2012 in ATLAS Room 229. Chair Jerry Peterson presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 and adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

I. Chair’s Report

• Peterson asked whether the BFA membership should be invited to the annual BFA Excellence Awards reception and presentation ceremony this spring. The Executive Committee agreed that it should.
• The BFA’s Administrator Appraisal Committee is reviewing the Engineering Dean this year, and it will produce a report for the BFA Executive Committee in the near future.
• Faculty Council has requested nominations for its Distinguished Service Award and its Administrator of the Year Award. Peterson suggested that the BFA consider making a nomination. Discussion followed.

II. Special Discussion – Role and Practices of the BFA

Faculty Affairs Committee Chair Paul Chinowsky initiated a discussion on the role and practices of the BFA and its committees.

It was generally noted that many important campus-level decisions have been made without
the faculty’s input, and that faculty are sometimes informed of decisions at the same time as, or immediately before, the press. There followed a discussion on the effectiveness of shared governance on the Boulder Campus, and how to make it more effective.

Suggestions, perspectives, and themes in the discussion included the following:

- While Faculty Governance on the Boulder Campus has been effective many times and in many areas, there is room for improvement.
- Faculty advice to administration is more effective when it is fully informed. The faculty’s voice is most credible in the area(s) of its expertise.
- The BFA should define more clearly its expectations about the kinds of decisions in which it would hope to be, or expect to be, included. It should also more clearly define its expectations for itself and for its members. The BFA should identify a core set of limited initiatives to focus on each year, or cycle of years. To be most effective, those initiatives should be integral to the academic mission of the University.
- Understanding is a prerequisite to good decision-making, and it requires effort. If faculty wish to participate in decision-making, they must put effort into understanding the environment in which decisions are made. The BFA should engage in more frequent discussions with high-level administrators, and adjust its practices to accommodate the structure and schedule by which administrative, as opposed to academic, decisions are made. This is especially true with regard to budget decisions.
- The Campus does not have an effective way for faculty as a body to communicate with each other, and for administration to communicate with faculty. Without it, faculty often receive news of important decisions first from the local newspaper, in a skewed manner, which harms the University and harms faculty morale.
- Time in BFA meetings and BFA Executive Committee meetings could be used more effectively. The Executive Committee should have access to, and should study, background material prior to meetings, in order to have thoughtful discussions of issues, rather than acting as a mere sounding board for decisions that have already been made by campus Administration.

III. Committee Updates

Budget and Planning Committee

Committee Chair Jerry Rudy reported that the Committee discussed the recent newspaper story on administrator salary raises. His report included the following points:

- A subcommittee has begun writing an internal report that describes the distribution process for administrators’ salary increases, a comparison with faculty salary increases, an overview of where increased tuition revenue will be spent, and the role of the State of Colorado. The report is hoped to serve as a model for communication with faculty when large decisions need to be reported to the press but should be vetted through the faculty first.
- The Committee will initiate a meeting with Vice Chancellor for Strategic Relations Frances Draper to discuss strategies for communicating with faculty, to ensure that faculty get complete and timely information about budget decisions, in advance.
Discussion followed. Greg Carey reported that his analysis of salary raises this year show that the raise pool for faculty was 0.4% larger than that for officers and professional exempt staff. He commented that this is the kind of detailed data that needs to be reported but in which the press probably has no interest.

**Nominations and Elections Committee**

Committee Chair Catherine Kunce reminded the committee that the deadline for nominations in the BFA’s annual election is this Friday, and the Committee plans to distribute ballots the following Friday. She added a request that BFA Committee Chairs make a special effort to advocate for BFA service and make an extra effort to find nominees to run for the several positions on BFA Committees which are to be filled in this election.

Discussion followed. The Committee Chairs each agreed to develop a short statement of why his or her committee is important and what it has been working on, to provide the Nominations and Elections Committee with information it can share with potential nominees.

It was suggested that the nomination deadline be postponed for one week, to February 24th.

*MOVED by Catherine Kunce and Seconded by Peggy Jobe that the nomination deadline in the BFA’s 2012 election be postponed one week, to Friday, February 24th, 2012.*

*The motion passed.*

Kunce requested Committee Chairs submit their one-sentence statements about their committees by this Friday, February 17th.

**IV. New Business**

The Executive Committee agreed to continue today’s discussion next Monday, and develop items of new business then. Ramirez commented that she noticed at least three possible, broad initiatives arising from the discussion:

- internal communication modes,
- how the BFA can be more involved in Budget and Planning decisions, and
- how the BFA can be more involved in decisions affecting academics.

**V. Adjournment.** Peterson adjourned the meeting at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.