The Boulder Faculty Assembly Executive Committee held a regular meeting on February 1, 2016 in UMC Room 425. Chair Melinda Piket-May presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

I. Special Report and Discussion: Final Exam Policy During Campus Closures

Bill Kaempfer introduced Kristi Wold-McCormick, the Boulder Campus Registrar, and then gave an overview of problems that arise when the Campus closes unexpectedly during a final exam period.\(^1\) Kaempfer and McCormick’s comments included:

- Today’s discussion is about making changes to the final exam policy, rather than changes to the Campus closing procedures policy.
- Students’ eligibility for Federal financial aid can be threatened by incompletes. Other types of eligibility can also be affected, for example for veteran’s benefits or intercollegiate athletic competition.
- To deal with the snow closure of December 15th 2015 UCB administrators created an ad-hoc policy which discouraged affected faculty from giving a blanket incomplete and instead asked them to construct final grades from existing course work and also offer the opportunity of a make-up final to change that grade. The Registrar’s Office then extended the deadline for faculty to submit final grades.

\(^1\) Campus policies on final exams and campus closures, respectively:
http://www.colorado.edu/policies/final-examination-policy
http://www.colorado.edu/policies/campus-closing-procedures-during-emergencies
A variety of circumstances necessarily limit the possible solutions. For example, some students would not be able to show up for a rescheduled exam.

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:

- Changes to the final exam policy should be a set of guiding principles rather than a strict delineation of what to do for every possible set of closure circumstances.
- The policy could suggest alternative methods for assigning final grades.
- The Campus should ask departments to create campus closure contingency plans.
- In the interest of fairness, faculty that would normally allow students to drop one exam grade should not force them to drop a snow-closure exam. In addition, separate sections of the same class should be asked to adopt identical policies.

Kaempfer and McCormick reported they will propose a revised policy and bring it back to the BFA for review. Kaempfer requested additional ideas or comments via email to William.Kaempfer@colorado.edu.

II. Discussion: Be Boulder Anywhere and Professional Master’s Degree Programs

Kaempfer provided context and information about Professional Master’s Degrees (PMD). During his report and the discussion that followed, his comments included the following:

- PMDs further UCB’s mission by expanding its graduate enrollments.
- PMDs benefit academic units by giving them a new, more flexible revenue stream: PMD tuition structures redirect more revenue back to their home units.
- The Campus is looking at an aspirational trajectory for PMDs that would add 90,000 credit hours over four years, for an investment of about $40 million, and providing new revenue in that time of about $250 million.
- Students of these programs pay by the course and they pay full tuition: departments would not have to fund these students.
- The working title of these kinds of programs is Professional Masters Degrees because their target audience is professionals currently in the workforce.
- The Campus’ Be Boulder Anywhere initiative is just one way the departments could provide content for these programs. Delivery could include distance education such as lecture-capture type videos, online courses in which education is not synchronous, traditional classroom work, or any combination of these.
- Administration has been involved in building and administrative infrastructure for PMDs, but individual faculty and groups of faculty are responsible for pursuing these programs for their disciplines.
- The Regents are being asked to approve these programs as parallel tracks to existing, more traditional masters’ programs.
- PMDs provide a source of revenue that does not depend on State support, on undergraduate tuition increases, or on increasing the undergraduate population.
- About a third of the PMD revenue goes to the Campus, which can then use it to backfill the future inevitable state budget cuts.

III. Committee Updates and Discussion
Intercollegiate Athletics Committee – Chair Joe Jupille gave a brief overview of the committee’s efforts and involvement:

- a joint initiative to streamline processes for Athletics Department requests for feedback on student-athlete performance;
- updating the BFA’s display in the Coors Events Center, to feature the work of faculty as an expression of engagement between faculty and athletics; and
- academic risk assessment. The Herbst Academic Center reports that fall 2015 student athletes achieved their highest ever semester GPA overall: 2.96 / 2.97, which is very close to the overall GPA for UCB’s general student population.

Bylaws Committee – Chair Bob Ferry reported that the Committee continues to prepare a response to feedback from the Faculty Affairs Committee, and to investigate the relationship between standing committees and Executive Committees.

IV. BFA Chair’s Report: Melinda Piket-May

a. Faculty are encouraged to look closely at their pay stubs this month. Several faculty have reported errors, likely due to recent changes to UCB’s payroll systems.

b. CU System has begun reviewing its Laws and Policies in a process that will take 18 to 24 months to complete. Faculty Council met with CU’s Senior Counsel Pat O’Rourke to discuss the process, in which a committee will prepare draft revisions which will be shared with Faculty Council and others for comment.

c. President Benson has asked each campus to submit a plan for faculty tuition benefits and reports he will make decisions on those plans in spring semester. The Boulder Campus is likely to receive a 20% discount benefit.

d. The deadline for BFA Excellence Award nominations is 5 p.m. Friday, February 19th. [The announcement with instructions is attached as an addendum, and available on line at http://www.colorado.edu/bfa/excellence-awards.]

V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Piket-May adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.