I. Background for the Bylaws Revision Process

The Bylaws Committee relied on the following materials when considering changes to the Bylaws:

- *American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (AIP)*
- *Robert's Rules for Dummies* (Dummies)

The National Association of Parliamentarians and the American Institute of Parliamentarians both offer certification programs for parliamentarians based on mastery of RONR. The certification by the American Institute of Parliamentarians also requires mastery of AIP. Robert McConnell Productions, the organization behind Robert's Simplified, offers a "licensed" parliamentarian certificate.

The Bylaws had not been systematically updated in some time. Before beginning its work, the committee reviewed all approved motions passed between 2010 and 2014 to determine whether or not the existing Bylaws and/or Standing Rules were accurate and up-to-date. All approved motions were passed during this time period have been incorporated into the web version of the Bylaws and Standing Rules posted on the BFA website at [http://www.colorado.edu/bfa/bylaws-boulder-faculty-assembly](http://www.colorado.edu/bfa/bylaws-boulder-faculty-assembly).

The committee also added changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules needed to implement a 2008 motion that called for the creation of a standing Grievance Advisory Committee. The PDF version of the Bylaws and Standing Rules, which has not been updated since November 2011, is no longer accurate. As part of its ongoing work, the committee plans to review the Bylaws and Standing Rules to see if the documents accurately reflect motions passed before 2010 that were not rescinded or amended at a later date.

II. Specific Issues Pertaining to the Revisions and the Revision Process

Standing Committees

Faculty Affairs expressed concern that the proposed revisions dilute the power of individual committees and give inordinate authority to the Executive Committee. In fact, with respect to the power of the Executive Committee to oversee and direct the work of committees the revisions do not propose changes to the existing bylaws. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee that were previously written in a sentence format are now in an enumerated list.

Current Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2:

The Executive Committee coordinates action of the Assembly between meetings. It oversees and approves all actions of committees, refers projects to committees as appropriate, and refers committee recommendations to the Assembly.

Bylaws Draft, Article IV, Section 2:

Section 2. The Executive Committee coordinates actions of the Assembly. The Executive Committee shall also:

1. oversee and approve all actions of committees;
2. refer issues to committees as appropriate;
3. refer committee recommendations to the Assembly;

The Bylaws committee was careful and thorough in its consideration of nature of the relationship between the Executive Committee and the several standing committees. All of the resources consulted by Bylaws expressly acknowledge limitations on the role and authority of committees:

RONR, p. 490:

Generally the term committee implies that, within the area of its assigned responsibilities, the committee has less authority to act independently for the society (or other constituting power) than a board is usually understood to have. Thus, if the committee is to do more than report its findings or recommendations to the assembly, it may be empowered to act for the assembly on specific instructions....

AIP, p. 188:

A standing committee is a committee that has a fixed term of office and does the work within its particular field that is assigned to it by the bylaws or referred to it by the organization, or the governing board.

Robert’s Simplified, p. 187:

A committee can only do what the organization asks it to do; it cannot act independently of the organization. A committee is always a subordinate body to the assembly or to the board. However, if a committee originates an idea that it feels will benefit the group, it can bring the idea to the assembly in the form of a motion.

Dummies, p. 255:

In this chapter, I cover the technical aspects of committees as subordinate groups, each with a limited focus on a particular subject or aspect of your organization’s operation.

III. The BFA Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is comprised of several officers, the immediate former chair of the Assembly, a representative of the retired faculty, and the chairs of all the standing committees. In at least three areas—years of BFA experience, proven commitment to faculty governance, and up-to-date familiarity with the ongoing business of the Assembly—the Executive Committee properly owns the responsibility for guiding and directing the BFA. While always respecting the rights of individual members to bring business before the Assembly, the Executive Committee, working with the BFA chair, decides what will come before the general Assembly for consideration and approval. This essential role, based as it is on the collective wisdom of the Committee’s members and the need for effective procedure, is made explicit in all the texts on parliamentary procedure (as given above).