MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting,
Boulder Faculty Assembly
March 19, 2012

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
Jerry Rudy, BFA Budget and Planning Committee Chair
Melinda Piket-May, BFA Diversity 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
David Kassoy, Retired Faculty Association Representative
Joe Rosse, Former BFA Chair
Horst Mewes, Arts and Sciences Council Chair
Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator

Not Attending
Karen Ramirez, BFA Administrative Services & Technology Committee Chair
Mike Klymkowsky, BFA Student Affairs Committee Chair Pro-Tem
Bill Kaempfer, Vice Provost, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Planning
Carly Robinson, CUSG Vice President for Internal Affairs
Steven Koenig, President, United Government of Graduate Students

Special Guests
Mike Bohn, Athletics Director
Jeff Lipton, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Administration

The BFA Executive Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, March 19, 2012 in ATLAS Room 229. Chair Jerry Peterson presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 and adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

I. Chair’s Report

a. BFA Committees’ Annual Reports – Committees are asked to please begin composing their annual reports for submission to the BFA Office. Committee Chairs will be issued stipends only if the reports are turned in before Commencement.

b. Questions for the President – President Benson will appear at the April 5th BFA meeting to answer in person in the written questions the BFA prepared on March 1st.

c. BFA Nomination Process for Faculty Representatives on Campus Committees – The BFA is often requested to provide nominations, not necessarily BFA members. Peterson requested discussion on whether the BFA could regularize a nomination process.

   i. Discussion followed. The Executive Committee agreed that, in order to spread the nomination ‘net’ as far as possible, it will in the future use the BFA membership as a nominating body. It will solicit nominations as needed.

d. Administration Response to Items of BFA Business – Peterson met with Chancellor
DiStefano to give him the BFA Resolutions approved on March 1st, and to ask the Chancellor to work with the BFA to develop a regular system for the Administration to acknowledge them, and reply.

II. BFA Election Results

Catherine Kunce, BFA Secretary and Chair of the BFA Nominations and Elections Committee, made the following report:

- Balloting has concluded in the Senate-wide election of new BFA members and new BFA Committee members. The turnout this year was very good.
- The election committee has met to review the results of the balloting and will issue election results before Spring Break.
- The election of BFA officers and at-large Executive Committee members for next year will occur at the BFA meeting on April 5th. Eligible to run are new and continuing BFA members. Nominations may be made by contacting the BFA Office. The Office will produce a paper ballot. To have candidates’ names pre-printed on the ballot, please contact the BFA Office by midnight on the day before the April 5th election meeting. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the election.

III. BFA Campus Communication System

Melinda Piket-May, Chair of the BFA Ad-Hoc Communications Committee, requested the Executive Committee brainstorm what issues the new Communication system could address. A brief discussion followed. Suggestions included:

- A column that ‘fact-checks’ stories in the newspaper.
- Written articles that capture the most viable, essential elements of the former Silver and Gold Record, such as fact-based articles on subjects of interest to faculty.

Questions included: What will the delivery mechanism be? Who will provide the content? Who will serve as the editorial board?

Piket-May asked for additional time at a future meeting, to continue the discussion.

IV. Committee Update: Budget and Planning Committee

Committee Chair Jerry Rudy gave a report that included the following points:

- The Committee has discussed the Campus’ initial salary distribution proposal for next year with Sr. Vice Chancellor and CFO Ric Porreca. (A 3% merit-based pool for those making up to $100,000 per year; a $3,000 limit for those making between $100,000 and $175,000; and no raise for anyone making more than $175,000.) The Committee is now working with Porreca’s team to revise the proposal to recognize the Campus’ well-established merit principles and processes.

Rudy requested discussion on how the proposal could be revised to avoid excluding anyone. Comments included the following:

- A dollar-based merit pool, rather than percentage-based, would run into compression problems over time, but not in the short-term.
• Excluding the highly paid, very meritorious faculty, or limiting their raises to an absolute dollar amount, runs the risk that they will leave the University.
• The Regents have mandated that all raises must be based on merit.
• Porreca has invited faculty to attend the Regents’ meeting where the salary distribution method is to be decided.
• Limiting the raise pool sends a very bad message to young faculty who are trying to build careers at CU.

V. Special Report: Athletics Department Update

Athletics Director Mike Bohn gave a report that included the following points:
• As part of its obligation under its agreement with Pac-12 Football conference, the Campus has agreed to a Thursday night football game this fall [7:00 p.m. on October 11, 2012]. The Pac-12’s initial proposal included multiple ‘nontraditional’ (weekday) games, but the Chancellor and the Athletics Department worked hard to limit those disruptions to the campus, also winning a promise that UCB will not have to host another Thursday night game for four years.
• The Pac-12 contract is worth $3 billion to the Conference, over twelve years.
• UCB has not received any revenue from the contract yet, in part because of the costs associated with leaving the Big 12 Conference. Revenue from the contract will begin to flow to UCB next Fiscal Year. Athletics will continue with its obligation to pay back the $8 million loan from the Campus, plus interest, according to plan.
• Athletics has begun a conversation with the BFA Libraries Committee about using some of the revenue from the Pac-12 contract to support the Libraries.

In the discussion that followed, Bohn made these additional points:
• There are many opportunities for academic collaboration with schools in the Pac-12 conference, in addition to athletics, and the Campus is moving to develop those.
• Joining the PAC-12 will help engage with significant numbers of CU alumni.
• NCAA rules govern how much can be invested in student athletes. CU may not provide additional cash awards for academic performance. In the last seven years Athletics has invested $750,000 for academic support for student athletes, better coaches, trainers, and doctors; and travel with chartered carriers to avoid students’ missing classes. ‘Post-eligibility aid’ is less restricted (for graduate school).
• The Executive Committee is invited to attend Athletics’ annual Academic Awards breakfast, on April 24th in the Stadium Club.

Other comments included:
• Many faculty are very concerned about the Thursday football game this fall, and working quickly with the Libraries Committee to provide monetary benefits, if any, before the game occurs would be helpful for addressing their concerns.
• Kassoy offered assistance in locating personal mentors among the faculty and retired faculty for ‘first-generation’ student athletes.

Lipton reported that Administration is preparing for the Thursday game in part by contacting faculty and staff well in advance, to allow time for adjustments if necessary. He added that
Administration’s game day planning committee may expand its membership. Peterson requested that the committee include a BFA representative.

Bohn thanked the Executive Committee, and the BFA’s Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, and reported that engaging with faculty is immensely helpful to the Athletics Department.

VI. New Business

BFA Excellence Awards Acknowledgements

Peterson reported that the BFA’s Excellence Award Selection Committees have made their selections. He then introduced discussion of whether the BFA should buy medals for recipients, for them to wear at commencement. Discussion followed. The Executive Committee agreed that, instead of medals, Excellence Award recipients should get permanent plaques instead.

BFA Participation in the April Meeting of the Coalition of Pac-12 Faculties, in Seattle

Peterson reported that, in addition to faculty leaders, faculty governance staff has also been invited to attend the upcoming meeting. He asked whether the BFA should pay for the BFA Coordinator to attend. The Executive Committee agreed that it should.

House Bill 1252, on Transparency of Higher Education Financial Information

Emery reminded the committee that the bill would require institutions to keep databases, updated weekly, of each faculty member’s activity and compensation. He reported that two Regents have proposed a resolution to support it, but have tabled the resolution until April 26th.

Discussion followed. Peterson agreed to ask CU’s various governmental relations groups to clarify the bill’s status.

Faculty Council Personnel Committee Update

Chair Bill Emery reported that Faculty Council has a new ad-hoc salary committee to look at salary compression, minority representation, and other issues. He added that the other campuses are developing reports similar to those produced this month by the BFA, on salary distribution and how new tuition revenue was spent.

Emery reported that he plans to ask Boulder’s CFO to explain why CU’s Faculty/Staff dependent tuition benefit cannot be extended to fall and spring semesters, and to describe what would have to be cut from the budget in order accommodate that.

BFA Budget and Planning Committee Update

Committee Chair Jerry Rudy reported that faculty had no input into how last year’s tuition revenue increase was distributed, and requested that the BFA invite the CFO and his team to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee this year, to consult.
VII. Adjournment. Peterson adjourned the meeting at 5:34.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.