MINUTES
Boulder Faculty Assembly
March 2, 2017

BFA Members Attending
Tiffany Beechy  Phil Graves  Catherine Kunce  Kathryn Pieplow
Greg Carey  David Gross  Jim Meiss  Gail Ramsberger
Janet Casagrand  Vicki Grove  Bruce Montgomery  Patricia Rankin
Philip Chang  Abby Hickcox  Roseanna Neupauer  Kevin Rich
Cathy Comstock  Seth Hornstein  Alastair Norcross  Steve Vanderheiden
Mel Cundiff  John Hoover  Adam Norris  Glenda Walden
Bridgett Dalton  Jerry Jacka  Graham Oddie  Marty Walter
Bob Ferry  Terry Kleeman  Melinda Piket-May  Jeff Weiss

BFA Members Not Present
Albert Alhadeff  Sarah James  Rolf Norgaard  David Slayden
Julio Baena  Jeanne Liotta  Hillary Potter  Seth Spielman
Max Boykoff  Kevin Mahan  Lt. Aaron Roof  Bryan Taylor
Priscilla Craven  Shelly Miller  Shalom Ruben  Deborah Whitehead
Mike Dunn  Shivakant Mishra  Daniel Schwartz  Ping Xu
Aya Gruber  Steve Nerem  Jamie Skerski

Liaisons Attending
Robert Rupert, Arts and Sciences Counsel Chair
David Kassoy, Retired Faculty Association President
Deborah Mendez-Wilson, Deborah Mendez Wilson, UCB Deputy Spokesperson, Strategic Relations
Vonda Maki, Staff Council Liaison
Sierra Swearingen, Boulder Faculty Assembly Coordinator
Valerie Musgrave, BFA Student Assistant

Guests and Presenters Attending
Aisha Jackson, Associate Director of Academic Technology Applications, Office of Information Technology
Sandra Sawaya, Academic Design Strategy Manager, Academic Technology Design Team, OIT
James Fudge, Senior Project Manager, Office of Information Technology
Sarah Thompson, Dean of Continuing Education and Vice Provost for Summer Session and Outreach and Engagement
William Kuskin, Vice Provost and Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives

The Boulder Faculty Assembly held a regular meeting on March 2, 2017 in the Center for Community Flatirons Room. Chair Melinda Piket-May presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

I. Officer’s Report

a. The BFA Excellence Awards committees have made their selections. Recipients will be announced soon. The presentation ceremony will be April 4th in UMC 235.

b. This week the BFA issued an e-memo to request faculty nominations to fill BFA At-Large positions, and positions on BFA Committees. Nominations are due March 10th.

c. The Pac-12 Academic Leadership Coalition meets this weekend. Piket-May, Grove, Kunce, and Swearingen will attend. Topics include non-tenure-track faculty in governance, campus climate and safety; impacts of Executive Orders on immigration and federal research funds. Please send comments to Melinda.Piket-May@colorado.edu.
II. Progress Report: Learning Management System Survey Results and Status of the Project
   Requested by the BFA Administrative Services and Technology Committee

Piket-May welcomed Aisha Jackson, Associate Director of Academic Technology Applications, Office of Information Technology and Sandra Sawaya, Academic Design Strategy Manager, Academic Technology Design Team, OIT. Jackson distributed handouts reporting the results of OIT’s recent surveys of faculty and students about UCB’s current Learning Management Systems (LMS), and possible changes. [Addenda A and B].

Jackson and Sawaya went over the results of the surveys. Key take-aways include:
   • increased focus on user experience;
   • evaluate the relative advantage of replacing Desire2Learn;
   • better understand and address migration concerns if D2L is replaced; and
   • develop web grading and integration with learning management systems.

Jackson invited feedback to aisha.jackson@colorado.edu and sandra.sawaya@colorado.edu. The project’s progress may be monitored at http://www.colorado.edu/lms.

III. New Business

Notice of Motion: to Amend BFA Bylaws and Standing Rules

Bylaws Committee Chair Adam Norris distributed handouts comparing the current and proposed BFA Bylaws and BFA Standing Rules. [Addenda C and D.] The proposed changes include:
   • remove the hard cap on the number of BFA members,
   • create an annual procedure to determine that year’s quorum,
   • create standing rules for the membership section of the BFA Bylaws,
   • allow any unit to apply for the right to elect or appoint a BFA representative, and
   • add an additional seat for retired faculty.

Discussion followed including these points and perspectives:
   • There should be a procedure for retiring seats.
   • The proposal removes the clause in section I about proportionate representation because these amendments shift the focus from traditional units to inclusion of every unit.

Moved by Adam Norris and seconded by Phil Graves that the BFA suspend its rule requiring a notice of motion, to allow the BFA to vote on the proposed changes presented in today’s handouts.

The motion passed with none apposed and no abstentions.

Moved by Adam Norris on behalf of the Bylaws Committee that the proposed revisions to the BFA Bylaws be approved.

The motion passed with none apposed and no abstentions. [BFA-M-1-030217]

Moved by Adam Norris on behalf of the Bylaws Committee that the proposed revisions to the BFA
Standing Rules be approved.

The motion passed with none apposed and one abstention. [BFA-M-2-030217]

IV. New Business – Notice of Motion on RAP Task Force Transparency

Abby Hickcox reported that faculty in Residential Academic Programs are concerned about the apparent secrecy of the Provost’s RAP Task Force. She reported that:

- the Task Force meets in executive session only and members are not allowed to talk about it;
- the RAP Council reports that the Task Force’s secrecy has created significant mistrust, which in turn is creating problems; and
- the RAP Council has requested BFA support to ask the Task Force be more transparent.

Discussion followed, included these points and perspectives:

- Regent Law gives the sole authority to make changes to academic programs to the faculty.
- Those involved in the task force are not themselves comfortable with the secrecy of its operations.

Hickcox asked the BFA to pass a motion to request the RAP Task Force improve its transparency, and proposed the following language as a notice of motion:

Meetings concerning significant changes to the existence, size, or status of units and/or faculty appointments, made at a level above the unit, carried out in secret (such as permanent executive session) achieve inferior results because they limit input and are not appropriate because they lack the open and democratic characteristics we value in faculty governance and university operations. Therefore, we ask the RAP Task Force to cease its permanent executive session and open its proceedings to the CU Boulder faculty.

Hickcox will send this notice of motion to the BFA via email today.

V. Committee Updates

Budget and Planning Committee, Chair David Gross

Vice Chancellor for Infrastructure and Safety David Kang gave a presentation at Friday’s B&P Committee meeting on UCB’s strategic facilities planning and initiatives. Kang signaled that he is open to faculty governance involvement in strategic planning. Kang suggested the BFA propose methods to involve faculty governance. If you are interested in being involved please send email to David.Gross@colorado.edu.

The Committee continues to consider graduate student and lab funding, proposed revisions to the summer school revenue model, and future enrollments and revenue.

Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, Chair Roseanna Neupauer
Last Friday Athletics sent questionnaires to faculty to evaluate student athletes in their classes. BFA members are asked to please remind their department colleagues to respond.

Executive Committee, Chair Melinda Piket-May

The CU Bookstore is responsible for preparing class materials for special needs students. Faculty are asked to notify the Bookstore of their class materials right away, to ensure the Bookstore has enough time to prepare those materials.

VI. Special Report and Discussion: Online Curriculum Development Process

Requested by the BFA Executive Committee

Piket-May introduced William Kuskin, Vice Provost Associate Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Sarah Thompson, Dean of Continuing Education and Vice Provost for Summer Session and Outreach and Engagement. Kuskin gave an overview of the Boulder Campus’ proposed contribution to the CU system-wide online inter-campus inter-disciplinary studies degree. Sarah Thompson gave a brief overview of the Division of Continuing Education’s plans to offer an online Boulder Campus completion degree in interdisciplinary studies.

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:

- The Department of Education’s Meta-Study on online learning concluded that outcomes from hybrid courses are better than those for traditional classrooms, but not that purely online outcomes are better. The study’s data did not include students that did not finish.
- The students the Regents wish to reach with on-line courses are people who are sidelined from the traditional on-campus experience. For example older, employed, and single-parents.
- Students in the inter-campus program will continue at their home campuses, and any Boulder content will continue to be owned and controlled by the Boulder Campus.
- Any Continuing Education completion degree would go through the same approval process as any proposed degree, and admission requirements would be the same as for any unit.
- These programs would introduce significant danger that vulnerable students would take on more debt in exchange for no degree if they fail to complete the program.
- The skill of learning is more important than any particular discipline.
- Students cannot get the cognitive development they need without a deep dive into a discipline.
- The Continuing Education completion degree would go through the same degree approval process as any other proposed degree.
- Traditional face-to-face instruction provides significant non-disciplinary concepts that are necessary benefits to a college education.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Piket-May adjourned the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.

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