MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting,
Boulder Faculty Assembly
May 7, 2012

Attending
Jerry Peterson, BFA Chair
Catherine Kunce, BFA Secretary
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
Mike Klymkowsky, BFA Student Affairs Committee Chair Pro-Tem
David Kassoy, Retired Faculty Association Representative
Joe Rosse, Former BFA Chair
Horst Mewes, Arts and Sciences Council Chair
Bill Kaempfer, Vice Provost, Associate Vice Chancellor for Budget and Planning
Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator

Not Attending
Bill Emery, BFA Vice Chair
Greg Carey, BFA Executive Committee Member at Large
Karen Ramirez, BFA Administrative Services & Technology Committee Chair
Martha Hanna, BFA Libraries Committee Chair
Steven Koenig, President, United Government of Graduate Students
Carly Robinson, CUSG Vice President for Internal Affairs

Guest
Heather Fields, Assistant Director for State Relations

The BFA Executive Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, May 7, 2012 in ATLAS Room 229. Chair Jerry Peterson presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 and adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

I. Chair’s Report

a. Firearms on Campus – The Chancellor’s Executive Committee meeting last week included a discussion on the possibilities for restricting the presence of firearms on campus. The BFA’s input on the topic, that the Chancellor has the faculty’s support in any of his efforts along those lines, was well received.

b. ICJMT External Review Proposal – Peterson requested discussion on how to proceed, given the extensive commentary at last Thursday’s BFA meeting. Discussion followed. The Executive Committee agreed that the Provost should be invited to attend an upcoming BFA Executive Committee to discuss the external review process. The Executive Committee suggested several names of possible nominators for the external review, if any, including Bobby Schnabel, Debra Richardson at UC Irvine, and also suggested recruiting leadership at Carnegie Mellon, which has a program that may be similar to what the Boulder Campus hopes to achieve with the transformation of its Journalism School. (On line at www.cmu.edu/about/index.shtml.)
On a related subject, Kaempfer reported on the changing status of the Environmental Design program on the Boulder Campus:

- The Boulder Campus Environmental Design Program is currently an undergraduate program of the Denver Campus’s College of Architecture and Planning, but which takes place on the Boulder Campus. The program is financed by a revenue-sharing agreement, in which the Denver College gets about 45% of the tuition. UCB treats those degrees as Boulder Campus degrees.
- The Boulder program has eight tenure-track faculty and seven hundred and fifty undergraduate students. The students have been comparatively unhappy with the program, and recently petitioned for change. A joint campus program review followed and was completed last year, with a strong recommendation that the program be split into two units: an undergraduate program in Environmental Design on the Boulder Campus, the existing graduate programs in Architecture on the Denver Campus, and a new BS degree in Architecture on the Denver Campus.
- The Campus is planning to install the Environmental Design Program initially as an independent program, possibly later merging it with an existing college, starting a new college, or moving it into other existing programs.
- The Provost has invited JoAnn Silverstein to be program director.
- A potential challenge is that by Colorado statute, the Denver Campus is given exclusive authority to offer architecture and planning, but Boulder’s Environmental Design program is quite different from architecture.
- The new program on the Boulder Campus will go live on July 1, 2012.
- The Campus is developing a process to transfer the tenure of current Denver faculty working in Boulder, to the Boulder Campus. The program will have 15 to 20 instructors.
- As a result of this change, the Boulder Campus will have about 25 new faculty members that will be part of the Boulder Faculty Senate, which presumably will require shared governance representation by way of the Boulder Faculty Assembly. The BFA has had a non-voting delegate from Environmental Design this past year, Hans Morganthaler.

Discussion followed. Peterson reminded the Executive Committee that the BFA’s ‘review of representation’ is due in Senate Year 2011-2012. Kaempfer added that at least initially the program will be housed under the graduate school.

II. Special Reports

Report on this Year’s Session of the Colorado General Assembly

Heather Fields, Assistant Director for State Relations from CU’s Office of Government Relations, provided a handout and gave a report on this year’s session of Colorado’s General Assembly.

Highlights included the following:
- The legislative session ends on Wednesday this week.
- Today the Governor signed the Long Bill, including a $7 million cut to Higher Education. The cut was initially planned to be $60 million, but was adjusted
downwards due in part to increased State revenue. The Long Bill also includes $5 million for level 2 controlled maintenance.

- House Bill 12-1252, Transparency of Higher Ed Financial Information, would have required Higher Education institutions to make more easily available a variety of information about how faculty spend their time. It is currently laid over and is unlikely to move forward this year, in part because of the delay in getting a fiscal note after an amendment was added that would broaden the impact of the bill to all Higher Education institutions that get College Opportunity Funds (COF), public or private. CU has been working hard to help legislators understand that, as currently planned, the bill would not ask institutions to provide sufficient information to understand what faculty actually do. The bill would impose a significant cost on the institutions.
  - The Executive Committee discussed various possible responses to the bill, including a survey of faculty as to how much time goes into preparing for each hour of class, and presenting the data in a way that provides the necessary context for understanding what faculty do.

- House Bill 12-1144, Contracts for Non-Tenure-Track Faculty, has been signed into law. It authorizes the institutions to offer multi-year employment contracts to contingent faculty, and leaves the details of implementation up to the Presidents or Chancellors.

- House Bill 12-1350 – In-state Status for Dependents of Armed Forces, would allow the institutions to give dependents of active-duty military members in-state status for tuition (minus COF), if they attended Colorado High Schools for at least two years.

- Senate Bill 12-167 – Higher Education Student Trust Bill, would have allowed CU to offer health benefits to students. CU requested the legislation be withdrawn due to ongoing planning and discussion with the State insurance division.

- House Bill 12-1321 and concurrent resolution 1001, will, if the constitutional portions are approved by the voters, change certain aspects of the state classified system such as the hiring process, and ‘bumping’ rights.

Fields welcomed feedback and input on these and any other bills at any time, and suggested faculty especially contact Ben Webster, on the Boulder Campus [303-492-5526].

III. Old Business

Honor Code

Student Affairs Committee Chair Mike Klymkowsky reported that the Committee has requested that the Honor Council revise its constitution to clearly indicate that the Honor Council does not have the authority to change grades issued by faculty. Klymkowsky called the attention of the Committee to a proposed motion, distributed with today’s agenda, written by Joe Rosse.

Discussion followed. There were multiple reports that the Honor Council has been asked to make the BFA’s requested revisions on several occasions, but there has not yet been a response. It was generally agreed that any resolution at this point should be careful to reinforce that the faculty are very much in favor of a student-run Honor Code on the Boulder
Campus, provided it does not conflict with the Faculty’s right to assign grades.

There were several friendly amendments, several of which were accepted by Rosse.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Committee produced the following resolution:

**BFA Executive Committee Motion**

To Request that Honor Code Documents State that the Honor Code is not Currently Approved by the BFA

*Whereas*, the current Honor Code Constitution and/or related documents on line state that the Honor Code is approved by the Boulder Faculty Assembly; and

*Whereas*, the BFA voted to rescind support for the Honor Code on May 5th, 2003 because of ambiguity as to whether the Code requires faculty to issue sanctions in conformity with decisions of the Honor Code hearing panels; and

*Whereas*, the BFA Executive Committee did not vote to approve the revised Honor Constitution presented to it in Spring of 2011; and

*Whereas*, the faculty in general strongly supports the principle of an Honor Code run by the students; and

*Whereas*, the faculty rejects grade changes that have not been authorized by the faculty; and

*Whereas*, the current Honor Code Constitution allows unauthorized grade changes;

*Be it Resolved*, that the BFA Executive Committee formally requests that until such time as the Honor Constitution and Code is revised to address the concerns of the faculty, the Honor Council indicate in the Honor Code Constitution, Bylaws, Code, and any related documents that the Code has not been approved by the BFA.

**Notice of Motion: May 7, 2012**

*Moved by Mike Klymkowsky and seconded by Peggy Jobe that the Executive Committee approve the motion as revised.*

Discussion followed. It was suggested that the Honor Code may need to be able to overturn a grade in order to protect students in the rare circumstance where a grade represents an abuse of power. Others responded that every unit is required to have a review committee to deal with that situation, and that allowing the Honor Code to change the grade in that case could have the effect of shielding the faculty member from internal consequences. It was reported that the faculty have several other concerns with the Code’s various procedures; most notably that faculty get too little notice of hearings and too little power to schedule
them appropriately.

Klymkowsky agreed to contact the students to ask them to remove any language on line that indicates that the current Honor Code is approved by the BFA.

*The motion passed unanimously.*

Peterson reported that the Motion will come before the Executive Committee for final approval at its meeting on June 4th.

IV. **Committee Updates**

**Faculty Affairs Committee – End of Year Summary**

Committee Chair Paul Chinowsky’s summary included these points:

- This year the committee’s main accomplishments were the completion of a revised instructor evaluation and reappointment process, which was approved by the BFA last fall, and the initiation of two new interdisciplinary seminar programs.
- The committee suggests that next year the BFA work on a regularized process by which BFA motions and resolutions can be monitored and follow-up after their approval.

Discussion followed. Peterson reported that the interdisciplinary seminar proposals are currently before the Deans for budget feedback.

V. **New Business**

**Strategy Session for the Next Senate Year**

Peterson requested discussion on the BFA’s priorities for the next Senate Year.

Discussion followed. It was generally agreed that “communication” could be a productive area for the BFA’s efforts next year. Ideas included the previously discussed BFA electronic newsletter, and/or a survey or series of surveys of the faculty on issues of concern to them, followed by analysis and sharing results.

VI. **Adjournment.** Peterson adjourned the meeting at 5:35.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.