Boulder Faculty Assembly
May 5, 2016

MINUTES
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Attendance

BFA Members Attending
Max Boykoff        Vicki Grove        Roseanna Neupauer        Steve Vanderheiden
Janet Casagrand    Abby Hickcox      Alistair Norcross        Glenda Walden
Philip Chang       Seth Hornstein    Rolf Norgaard            Marty Walter
Mel Cundiff        Peggy Jobe        Adam Norris              Deborah Whitehead
Bridgett Dalton    Catherine Kunce   Melinda Piket-May        Ping Xu
Phil Graves        Jim Meiss         Ltc. Aaron Roof, ROTC
David Gross        Shelly Miller      David Slayden

Liaisons Attending
Robert Rupert, Arts and Sciences Counsel Chair [and temporary Philosophy Representative]
David Kassoy, Faculty Retired Faculty Association
Sierra Swearingen, Boulder Faculty Assembly Coordinator

Guests and Observers Attending
Regent Linda Shoemaker
Shivakant Mishra
Kirsi Aulin, Ombuds
Suzanne Soled, Director of Faculty Relations
Julie Poppen, Strategic Relations
Sarah Kuta, Reporter, Boulder Daily Camera

The Boulder Faculty Assembly held a regular meeting on May 5th, 2016 in UMC 235. Chair Melinda Piket-May presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

I. Chair’s Report: Melinda Piket-May

1. The BFA presented 11 Excellence Awards to Boulder Campus faculty members on April 25th at a ceremony in UMC 235. The event was well-attended.

2. The BFA’s Elections Committee Chair will today present three faculty nominees for the BFA’s Grievance Advisory Committee. The GAC does not investigate grievances, but advises reviewing bodies and others on Campus and University policies.

3. Commencement and the brunch that follows are on Saturday, May 7th. All faculty are asked to please attend commencement and enjoy the brunch afterward. The brunch is located in Folsom Stadium at the Club level. Regalia for Commencement is provided to faculty free of charge.

II. Special Report and Discussion: Offices of the UCB Ombuds and UCB Director of Faculty Relations

CU Boulder’s Ombuds (Kirsi Aulin) and Director of Faculty Relations (Suzanne Soled), gave a joint presentation about the similarities and differences between their two offices. Their report included the following points:

• The Ombuds’ services are open to anyone on Campus. The Office employs two emeritus faculty members to serve as faculty ombuds. The Ombuds office is a confidential resource: it
does not report the content of cases or identities of individuals to anyone. The purpose of the office is to provide objective feedback about how the University works. It does not investigate.

- In contrast, the Office of Faculty Relations can be confidential but not when performing an official investigation of allegations of unprofessional conduct.
- The Office of Faculty Relations is a mandatory reporter; the Ombuds Office is not.
- Faculty Relations can provide coaching on whether to file a grievance but does not perform investigations unless asked to do so by an administrative head, such as the Provost.
- The Ombuds performs research into formal options for its visitors, and does so in a way that protects the identity of the person seeking the information. Common issues that come to the Ombuds are conflict with colleagues, difficulty with graduate students, unfair processes or procedures, and faculty facing difficult ethical dilemmas.
- The Director of Faculty Relations provides coaching on leadership: she participates in the system-wide Excellence in Leadership Program\(^1\), and facilitates leadership training for department chairs.
- The Director of Faculty Relations can also perform climate assessments of Units, including a written report with recommendations.

### III. Recognition of BFA committee members and chairs

Regent Shoemaker assisted in presenting certificates of recognition for dedicated leadership and service, to this year’s BFA Committee Chairs.

### IV. Discussion

Piket-May reported that the BFA agendas next year will include an item for general discussion, to welcome any thoughts, questions, or comments about what is happening on Campus.

Discussion followed, including the following topics:

- Providing parking for faculty during Commencement could increase faculty participation.
- Parking at the new SEEK building on East Campus is problematic: its lots are permit-only 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, but its bus service does not run after 7:00 p.m. on weekends.
- The University has an FCQ Committee which will soon include faculty.
- Some classroom buildings have been locked during finals, interfering with administering final exams.
- The Campus is thinking of adopting a recommendation by the Campus’ Space Utilization Committee to keep Norlin Library open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.
- Piket-May reminded BFA members that they should report about the BFA’s activities to their departments, and bring feedback and ideas back to the BFA and its committees.

### V. Adjournment

There being no further business, Piket-May adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.

\(^1\) [http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/career-advancement-learning/leadership/elp](http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/career-advancement-learning/leadership/elp)