MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting,
Boulder Faculty Assembly
June 4, 2012

Attending
Jerry Peterson, BFA 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
Melinda Piket-May, BFA Diversity Committee Chair
Paul Chinowsky, BFA Faculty Affairs Committee Chair
Adam Norris, BFA Instructor-Track Faculty Affairs Committee Co-Chair
Robert Parson, BFA Libraries Committee Incoming Chair
Karen Ramirez, BFA Administrative Services & Technology Committee Chair
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
Steven Koenig, President, United Government of Graduate Students
Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator

Not Attending
Jerry Rudy, BFA Budget and Planning Committee Chair
Bill Emery, BFA Vice Chair
Elizabeth Bradley, BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Chair
Martha Hanna, BFA Libraries Committee Chair
Mike Klymkowsky, BFA Student Affairs Committee Chair Pro-Tem
Carly Robinson, CUSG Vice President for Internal Affairs

Guests
Russell Moore, Provost
Deb Coffin, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Janet De Grazia, Honor Code Faculty Advisor

The BFA Executive Committee held its regular meeting on Monday, June 4, 2012 in ATLAS Room 229. Chair Jerry Peterson presided. The meeting convened at 4:00 and adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

I. Chair’s Report

a. ROTC – This year, the BFA Chair attended the R.O.T.C.’s end-of-the-year officer commissioning ceremonies, and recommend that BFA leadership attend these events in the future, to acknowledge the achievements of Boulder Campus students.

b. Executive Committee meeting location - Next year the Committee will meet in a different location. The first meeting of the year (August 27th) will be in Regent 302, and afterwards in another location to be announced later this summer.

c. Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics –
   i. COIA is promoting a boycott of men’s basketball games at the University of Kentucky, because of leadership problems.
   ii. The Knight Commission has proposed that league revenues from bowls be
distributed in proportion to graduation rates of athletes that play in the bowls.

d. **BFA Conference Room** – BFA Committees are always invited to use the BFA’s conference room at 914 Broadway (room 1B10).

e. **Save the Date(s): BFA Winter Reception** – The BFA’s annual winter reception is planned for December 6th after the BFA meeting, or December 7th, in the University Club.

f. **BFA Election Schedule** – The BFA’s election process will follow a similar schedule as last year, with the final election meeting of the year held on Thursday, April 4th.

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# II. Old Business – Honor Code

Peterson reminded the Executive Committee that a Notice of Motion was given at its meeting on May 7th, and reported that the Student Affairs Committee has proposed a substitute:

"Given that the Honor Council has agreed to the changes in the wording of THE Honor Code’S Constitution POLICIES AND PROCEDURES DOCUMENT recommended by the Student Affairs Committee of the Boulder Faculty Assembly, namely i) that it is explicitly and unambiguously acknowledged that faculty and faculty only are responsible for student grades and ii) that faculty involved in Honor Code hearings be informed in a timely manner about such hearings, and that such hearings will be postponed if the faculty member informs the Honor Council (in a timely manner) if they cannot attend, and assuming that these changes are incorporated into all working procedures of the Honor Code, the committee recommends that the BFA vote to endorse the Honor Code and Honor Code processes."

Discussion followed, including these points and perspectives:

- The Executive Committee agreed to review the revised Policies and Procedures and will consider the motion and substitute motion for a final vote at its meeting on July 2nd.
- Deborah Coffin, the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, agreed to share the Honor Codes’ statistics (in the context of history), with the BFA each year.
- Peterson noted that the membership of the Campus Ethics Committee is to include a BFA member. Peterson requested that the Student Affairs Committee make a nomination.
- Coffin agreed to give the BFA an update on what academic ethics content the Campus gives students during orientation.
- It was suggested that the Colleges be asked to ensure that the identities of their Academic Ethics Chairs be better known.

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# III. Special Report – ICJMT – Provost Russell Moore

Moore gave a status report on the ICJMT process and then participated in a discussion. [The Exploratory/Steering Committee’s report, and Provost Moore’s letters to the Campus about the report, are on line at https://academicaffairs.colorado.edu/academicreview/]

Moore’s initial comments included the following:

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1 Information, Communication, Journalism, Media and Technology.
• The report was intended as a starting point for further conversation on opportunities the Campus has to take advantage of existing strengths. The report is not a set of decisions that have already been made.
• The Provost has, along with representatives of the ICJMT group, met with the units named in the report to discuss the report, and talk about ‘process’ moving forward. The Provost solicited nominations for participants in an external committee. That committee will not come to campus until the latter half of the fall, at the earliest.
• Discussions going on now are to help identify additional opportunities relevant to the report. A working group led by Helmut Muller-Sievers may soon be joined by a similar working group led by the Department of Communication.
• Important aspects of the report include the Campus’ potential for programmatic and other collaborations between units. One very ambitious aspect of the report recommended a specific structural change. Pushback against that aspect has been a distraction from the other, very interesting, programmatic aspects.
• The purpose of the report is to allow the Campus to expand on or contract the opportunities it identifies, as the Campus sees fit through its broad discussions. Whatever emerges can then drive whatever structural changes may be necessary. Many different types of structures could accommodate the various proposals that the Campus may want to pursue.

In the question-and-answer session that followed, Moore made these additional points:
• The initial set of faculty involved in the discussion will include those from the units named in the report. The number of faculty potentially affected by implementation of the report recommendations could be about 100 and as many as 150.
• The report did not address many of the questions raised at this point, as premature. Most of the objections to the report center on the incorrect belief that the structural recommendations in the report have already been adopted.
• The Campus has no plans to stop offering its current graduate programs, but hopes that graduate students will have additional opportunities for inter-disciplinary work.
• External response has grown to be very positive about this process. Several major donors have expressed interest in supporting interdisciplinary collaborations.
• The role of the external committee will be to review the report, meet with internal constituents, give the Campus third-party feedback, and provide an ‘outsiders’ view of other opportunities that the report may have missed.
• While the Campus has no preconceived commitment to a new college or school, some sort of unit re-alignment may be adopted if that is what turns out to be best for the Campus. There are several structural possibilities. An interesting model is Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School, which has no faculty of its own, but instead has faculty with departmental homes across campus.

There were comments that the process should focus on the student experience as its guide.

Peterson then introduced discussion of other topics. Moore made these additional points:
• Strategic priorities for the Provost include re-focusing on the undergraduate student experience, of which advising, academic rigor, and improving admission standards are parts. The Campus Advising Exploratory Group has recommended a common
advising platform across all units. The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs is reviewing academic rigor. Improving admission standards would assist the Campus to justify higher tuition. The BFA can assist by participating in dialogue around academic rigor and student success.

- Other strategic priorities are to defend and increase the Campus’ primacy as a comprehensive National Research University while maintaining its core values as a Liberal Arts institution; to increase and improve Campus involvement in fundraising at every level; and to be more effective at both internal and external communications.

The Executive Committee thanked the Provost.

IV. New Business

BFA and Executive Committee Procedural Changes

- Paul Chinowsky and Carmen Grace, Chairs of the Faculty Affairs and Academic Affairs Committees, reminded the Executive Committee that they plan to merge the two committees. Peterson proposed that the Bylaws Committee add the merger to its planned Bylaws changes for next year.
- Chinowsky, incoming Bylaws Committee Chair, asked that all BFA Committee Chairs review their charges in the Bylaws and provide feedback to him, with regard to possible changes. [Committee charges are in the BFA’s Standing Rules, Article V., online at http://www.colorado.edu/FacultyGovernance/bylaws/standingrules.html#SRV.]
- It was suggested that BFA Executive Committee members attend the Provost’s regular breakfast meetings with the department Chairs and Directors.
- Swearingen distributed a chart to assist Committee Chairs in reserving time on BFA and Executive Committee agendas.
- The Executive Committee decided to hold a half-day retreat on campus, instead of its July meeting, to discuss the BFA Committees’ charges and their initiatives for next year.

Miscommunication About Athletics Department Funding

Peterson reminded the Committee about an article in the Daily Camera that seems to report that the campus has recently given a $3 million gift to the Athletics Department, approved by the faculty. Discussion followed. It was agreed that if the faculty were consulted, none of the BFA’s Executive Committee members were informed. Peterson reported that he will clarify with the reporter, and with the Chancellor, that the BFA was not consulted. It was generally agreed that an acceptable solution to the miscommunication problem would a letter to the editor, signed by Peterson and Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications Frances Draper.

V. Adjournment. Peterson adjourned the meeting at 5:43.

Respectfully submitted by Sierra Swearingen-Todd, BFA Coordinator.

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2 See BFA Executive Committee minutes of April 30, 2012 for an overview: http://tinyurl.com/dypg33h.