A meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly Executive Committee was held on Monday, March 29, 2010, in ATLAS 229. Chair Joe Rosse presided. The meeting convened at 4:05 and adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes from March 8, 2010

II. Chair’s Report:

a. Joe reported that the 9% resident tuition increase was approved by Regents this morning. At last report, the tuition flexibility legislation is progressing.

b. Joe reported on the status of motions voted on at the March 4 BFA meeting:

   i. The Faculty Council referred both Program Discontinuance motions to the Faculty Council Educational Policy and University Standards Committee (EPUS) and the Faculty Council Personnel Committee. The Faculty Council Executive Committee seemed supportive.

   ii. The motion to make it easier to change dependent eligibility status during the year was positively received by the Faculty Council Executive Committee and by the Vice President for Human Resources, Jill Pollock. It was forwarded to the Personnel
Committee. The main holdup may be the availability of software to allow these changes to be made.

iii. Joe briefed the Faculty Council on the Instructor Status Report, which the Personnel Committee had already read and discussed. After some Faculty Council discussion, the Faculty Council Chair asked that Joe share the following reactions with BFA:

1. Other campuses didn’t seem as concerned with the issue. The UCD-D representative said he really hadn’t heard any expressions of concerns; UCD-AMC said they would be opposed because the provisions would actually provide far more protection for instructors than for most faculty on their campus; UCCS had mixed reactions—some departments seem not to have concerns about either economic security or academic freedom, whereas other departments would be more supportive. The bottom line from Faculty Council—this will require a lot of fine-tuning.

2. The Faculty Council Executive Committee has concerns about the discussion of an alternative tenure-track. They fear that this will not be well-received by the Regents or the legislature and that it could do substantial harm in the current political environment. They are particularly concerned that it could harm the other campuses, which don’t have a strong interest in the idea.

III. Faculty Affairs Committee Report: Shanta De Alwis

a. Shanta presented the Faculty Affairs Committee’s motion to create an independent Libraries Committee:

Whereas the library must compete for funds with other A & S units, and

Whereas the need for collection space affects other college units, and

Whereas the campus and the library should work together to strengthen ties between the library and the rest of the faculty, and

Whereas the Blue Ribbon Library Panel recommends a review of "the nature of tenure in the Library in relation to the rest of the campus," and
Whereas the Library's IT planning should be integrated with that of the campus, and

Whereas improving morale among Library staff and faculty has been a longstanding concern, and

Whereas the Library has been asked to seek legislation designating the CU-Boulder University Libraries as a state library resource,

Let it be resolved that given the campus nature of these concerns, none of which is parochial, the BFA create a strong campus-level Library committee. This committee should include representatives of the BFA, faculty and/or staff from the Library, and members (including the chair) selected by the Provost; the committee should include, whenever possible, representatives from Business, Education, Engineering, Journalism and Mass Communication, and the Graduate School in addition to Arts and Sciences. In order to insure that the faculty as a whole is able through this committee to have an important voice in conversations about the Library, the committee should make recommendations directly to the Dean of the Libraries and report directly to the Provost.

i. There was discussion about whether such a committee is needed and whether the concerns expressed in the Blue Ribbon report are relevant anymore:

ii. There was discussion about whether the Libraries dean tries to run the committee. Ned, the Chair of the BFA Libraries Committee, reported that this was true in the past but that he has been slowly changing the balance of power and runs the meetings now.

iii. There was discussion about the fact that the report recommended two separate things: 1) either change the composition of BFA committee or 2) create something like an IT Council.

iv. There was discussion about whether the BFA really should cede appointment power over its Libraries Committee to the Provost and create a hybrid committee.

v. There was discussion about the Libraries dean’s lack of control over classroom space.

vi. The motion died for lack of second.

b. Shanta discussed the FAC’s motion regarding the prohibition on academic funds used for athletics:

Whereas the university is facing the greatest financial crisis since the 1930s and, as a result, is currently considering draconian cuts, and

Whereas the university, to meet student demand, is already employing contingent faculty in more than fifty percent of its courses, and

Whereas salaries are frozen, and
Whereas university debt exceeds two billion dollars, and

Whereas the university has paid millions of dollars to settle legal suits against the football team and to buy out the contract of Coach Barnett, and

Whereas numerous scholarly studies have shown that the relationship between big-time athletics and the educational mission of the university is tenuous at best,

The Faculty Affairs Committee moves that the BFA request "That no university funding, received for the university's academic mission, be used to support CU's Big Twelve athletics programs."

Note: We have no intention to cut the funding for club sports.

i. Liz, the Chair of the Intercollegiate Athletics Committee, reported that the IAC had discussed this motion and was universally opposed for the following reasons.
   1. It is dangerous to get into conversations about revenue/expense balances of individual units at CU.
   2. The definition of "academic" funds is problematic.
   3. This is moot because there is not a significant flow of funds to athletics.
   4. The motion is based on incorrect information about the flow of funding. The Cumalat report does not count the following flows of funds from athletics to other CU entities: $7.2M in tuition ($9M total minus the $1M CU subsidy and the Hank Brown $750K), $1.4M in GAIR, $300K to housing, $180K to dining, $500K to parking
   5. Counting the tuition in the calculation of the direction of the flow is arguable; even so, the GAIR alone counterbalances most of the scholarship subsidy that athletics receives. The $500K to parking keeps costs down for the rest of us. And there are other direct & indirect flows: athletics covers all but $10K of the July 4th CU-sponsored community event at Folsom Field, for instance. Taking all of this into consideration, the IAC believes that the flow appears to be in the other direction—Athletics actually contributes to the general fund. But these are estimates.

ii. It was determined that the Budget and Planning Committee and the Intercollegiate Affairs Committee will work together with Mike Bohn and Ric Porreca in the coming months to get a complete and accurate picture of the monetary flows between Athletics and the general fund and then bring the report to the Executive Committee.
iii. The motion died for lack of a second.
iv. There was discussion about what intangible benefits accrue from an athletics program to a campus.
v. Joe was asked by the Executive Committee to remind Standing Committee Chairs to involve other committees when considering proposals involving the jurisdiction of those other committees.

c. Shanta presented the FAC’s motion regarding academic sanctions and the Honor Code (attached).
i. There was discussion of whether this was a problem with the wording or the application of the wording.
ii. The motion passed unanimously. It will go to the BFA as a notice of motion on Thursday.

IV. Intercollegiate Athletics Committee Report: Liz Bradley
a. Liz reported that the IAC has completed about 75% of the items on its agenda for the year. The IAC:
   i. Worked out a MOU process for competitions in collaboration with Julie Manning, the Compliance Coordinator.
   ii. Rewrote to include more faculty involvement the policies and documents that dictate what happens when a student-athlete’s scholarship is reduced or not renewed. These proposals must still be adopted and approved at the Chancellor’s level.
   iii. Reviewed game-day procedures for MFB.
   iv. Reviewed proposed NCAA legislation and transmitted recommendations to the FAR and the compliance coordinator.
   v. Continued to work with various constituencies on the issues surrounding class conflicts with competitions.
   vi. Provided feedback on problems with competition schedules.
   vii. Reviewed and provided feedback on Student-Athlete admissions issues.

b. Some items remain uncompleted: APR and COIA review, proposed town meeting, etc.

V. Discussion regarding the CU Engineering/Mesa State College program: this discussion was postponed until the April 19 meeting.

VI. Sanjai Bhagat, Faculty Representative to the University Benefits Advisory Board
a. Sanjai reported that the System Administration appears to be seriously considering the idea of a “self-funding” the university’s health care plans in order to capture the profit currently accruing outside funders. He stated that the University had such a program in the 1990’s that was abandoned due to an $11 million shortfall. Apparently System believes it can exercise better expertise and more restraint this time around. The types of
health insurance plans available to employees should not change dramatically.
b. There was discussion about whether the self-funded model was an attempt to channel employee health care into the University of Colorado health system.

VII. Consent Agenda: The Committee did not have the opportunity to consider the appointment of Melinda Piket-May, Electrical and Computer Engineering, to take on Ed Rivers’ 2009-2012 term on the CU Faculty Council Budget Committee. This appointment will be considered at the April 19 meeting.

VIII. Adjournment

Consent Agenda: Appointment of Melinda Piket-May, Electrical and Computer Engineering, to a 2009-2012 term on the CU Faculty Council Budget Committee.