MINUTES
Executive Committee Meeting
Boulder Faculty Assembly
April 19, 2010

Attending
Joe Rosse
Ahmed White
Sheila Scanlon
Bill Emery
Melinda Piket-May
Carmen Grace
Jerry Rudy
Susan Moore
Michael Main
Liz Bradley
Ned Friedman
John Toth
Dave Kassoy
Bill Kaempfer
Thomas Higginbotham

Guests: Jeff Shiel, Sierra Swearingen, Will Taylor

A meeting of the Boulder Faculty Assembly Executive Committee was held on Monday, April 19, 2010, in April 19. Chair Joe Rosse presided. The meeting convened at 4:05 and adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

I. Approval of the Minutes: The Minutes from March 29, 2010 were approved.

II. Chair’s Report:

a. Joe reported that Maureen Ryan will be leaving the position of BFA Coordinator and will be replaced by Sierra Swearingen, who worked in the position previously.

b. Joe introduced the new UCSU president, Will Taylor.

C. Joe reported that the Provost nominee withdrew and the search is deemed failed. Joe asked the Executive Committee whether it was willing to express its support for Stein Sture as Interim Provost. The Executive Committee agreed and Joe will draft a statement from the Executive Committee to that effect.

i. There was discussion about whether the BFA should issue a statement regarding a desire to have multiple finalists to choose from as a result of the next Provost search. Joe will draft statement from the Executive Committee to that effect.
d. Joe reported on the status of the Instructor Status Recommendations motion and the Program Discontinuance motions that have been passed by the BFA. The Chancellor will talk to Provost, and the two will talk to the deans, about the Instructor Status recommendations. The Faculty Council has changed the language a bit in the Program Discontinuance motions (“all rostered non-tenure track faculty”).

III. Discussion regarding the CU Engineering/Mesa State College program: Liz Bradley
a. Liz reported that Mesa State has a cloned version of one of CU’s Engineering programs. She said there are questions about whether Mesa State students are unprepared to handle the difficulty level of CU’s courses. Liz believes it was originally determined that Mesa State students would attend two years down there and then two years up here, but that is not happening. She said that supposedly, however, Mesa State has the same standards, etc., and CU’s Mechanical Engineering department hires and trains all the people teaching in the program at Mesa State.
b. There was discussion about the lack of BFA and Engineering faculty consultation and involvement in the development of the program.
c. There was discussion about whether the Committee should bring in Marty Dunn or Daria Kotys-Schwartz to discuss the program.
d. There was discussion about whether the original agreement is being followed precisely and whether the program is at risk of termination.
e. The Executive Committee charged the Academic Affairs Committee with monitoring the situation next year.

IV. Administrator Appraisal Committee Report: Melinda Piket-May
a. Melinda reported that the AAC considered the question of whether the questionnaires used in the appraisal of administrators should be supplemented with other forms of evaluation. After looking at the process, the AAC determined that the current evaluation methods are sufficient because separate populations are questioned and because written comments are compiled.
b. Melinda reported that the AAC considered the question of whether the 60% response rate criterion effectively worked to disenfranchise the Arts & Sciences faculty, who respond in the multiple hundreds, but do not achieve the 60% rate. Are those responses disregarded? After studying the concern, the AAC determined that although the bubble data from the sample population is used, all written comments are compiled by Jeff Schiel and submitted to the chair of the AAC.
c. Melinda reported that the AAC has memorialized a task calendar for the administrator appraisal process in case Jeff Shiel, who currently oversees the data collection, ever leaves.

V. Diversity Committee Report: Susan Moore
a. Susan reported that the Diversity Committee has instituted a major effort to involve faculty in diversity efforts.

b. Susan reported that the Diversity Committee developed a panel of faculty to present at the Diversity Symposium sponsored by the ODECE.

c. Susan reported that the ODECE has asked the Diversity Committee to look at the issue of a statement of diversity as an educational benefit.

d. Susan reported that the co-chairs of the Diversity Committee won a grant for 2010 to develop a Diversity and Excellence project.

e. Susan reported that the Diversity Committee is looking at the possibility of developing a certificate or minor in disability studies.

VI. Administrative Services and Technology Committee Report: Bill Emery

a. Bill Emery reported Frank Bruno is now sensitive to the need to involve faculty in the process of setting parking rates. Frank Bruno met with the ASTC and imparted the following information:

   i. Parking fees will go up 3% primarily to service the debt on the parking at C4C.

   ii. Parking Services is an auxiliary service so it has to pay for itself.

   iii. The University is examining different fee structures for parking and is happy to take input from the BFA.

b. University parking will have to change, but we don’t know how yet.

c. There was discussion about the burdens on staff of raising parking fees. Should fees be assessed on a sliding-scale based on income? Emery agreed to pass these comments on to Vice Chancellor Bruno.

d. There was discussion about student parking.

VII. Faculty Affairs Concealed Gun Ban motion

Whereas the university is traditionally a place where disagreements are settled through civil debate or the established avenues of conflict resolution, and

whereas for decades no case of use of firearms on any CU Campus has occurred, and

whereas the CU campuses have an experienced police force that is trained in dealing with potential serious disruptions, including the use of firearms, and

whereas the presence of firearms on the campuses is bound to increase the risk that they might be used,

be it, therefore, resolved that the BFA urges the university administration and the Board of Regents to file an appeal against the recent court decision that ends the weapon-free status of the university that has served its members so well for decades.

a. There was discussion about the basis for the appellate court’s ruling.
b. There was discussion about the accuracy of the motion given the fact that the lower court’s dismissal of the lawsuit was reversed and the case was remanded to the lower court. An appeal at this point is premature.
c. There was discussion about what would be a useful approach on this issue if the court decision leaves the Regents no choice:
   i. Appeal
   ii. Change legislation
d. There was discussion about the perceived need to carry concealed weapons on campus. There was consideration of a statement that only trained personnel should be responding to a violent event.
e. There was discussion about whether this is an ideological debate, and, if so, which side of the ideology should the BFA be on.
f. It was determined that the BFA should support the Regential rule as it currently stands. To that effect, a motion was made and seconded to amend the motion as follows: strike out the language “file an appeal against the recent court decision that ends” and insert the language “take action to maintain”. The motion to amend was unanimously approved.
g. The motion as amended was unanimously approved and will be forwarded to the BFA.

VIII. Libraries Committee Report: Ned Friedman
   a. Ned Friedman reported that there will be 5% average cut to serial publications across campus and, thus, the Libraries Committee requested that the bibliographers of each department be consulted in budget reduction decisions involving the cancellation of journals, etc. Departmental Faculty meetings with bibliographers to make decisions about cancellations. Many of these meetings have taken place and have been extremely helpful.
b. Ned reported that the Libraries Committee will be bringing something to the BFA to get a higher level focus on how classroom space in the library is used so it can be better coordinated.
c. There was discussion about the size and composition of the Libraries Committee.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35.