BFA Instructor-Track Faculty Affairs Committee Resolution to Create Minimum Voting Rights in Departments and Programs on the Boulder Campus

BFA-R-050213.2

Whereas Boulder campus faculty who hold the ranks of assistant professor, associate professor, full professor, instructor, and senior instructor (the “regular” faculty) have broad eligibility to vote for and serve on the Boulder Faculty Assembly, per its by-laws;

Whereas some departments and programs on the Boulder campus restrict instructors from enjoying basic voting rights and even the ability to attend department meetings;

Whereas the creation of a basic floor for general minimum voting rights addresses the wide variance in the enfranchisement or disenfranchisement of faculty at the same rank in different programs and departments;

Whereas any program or department can restrict general voting rights or presence at a meeting given the nature of the specific issue under discussion (e.g. personnel matters);

Whereas broad participation in the intellectual life and governance activities of a department or program leads to greater collegiality, professionalism, and commitment to the educational and research missions of the campus, and to better communication regarding policies and curricula by instructors to the students they teach;

Therefore be it resolved that the Boulder Faculty Assembly endorses the creation of consistent minimum voting rights in departments and programs on campus. These minimum voting rights would be consistent with the voting rights enumerated in the BFA By-laws: “faculty with appointments of at least 50%: Professors of any rank except adjunct or ‘of practice,’ Instructors of any rank, Research Professors of any rank, Clinical Professors of any rank, and ROTC faculty of any rank.” Although any department or program can restrict these minimum voting rights and meeting attendance given the specific issue under discussion (e.g. personnel matters), such restrictions should be regarded as limited exceptions to the principles of broad participation by these faculty in department and program affairs and regular attendance at department and program meetings.

Let it further be resolved that compliance with these minimum voting rights shall be monitored jointly by the Boulder Faculty Assembly and the Office of Faculty Affairs.

Notice of Motion to the BFA Executive Committee: March 18, 2013
Approved by the BFA Executive Committee for forwarding to the BFA: March 18, 2013
Notice of Motion to the BFA: April 4, 2013
Approved by the BFA: May 2, 2013