



Boulder Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

BFA Bylaws Committee Notice of Motion
Resolution Regarding the Faculty Ownership of the Curriculum
BFA-R-1-101419

Whereas Regent Law Article 51 section 5.E.5 states “The faculty takes the lead in decisions concerning selection of faculty, educational policy related to teaching, curriculum, research, academic ethics, and other academic matters;” and

Whereas Regent Law Article 5 section 5.E.5 (A) further states “The faculty shall have the principal role for originating academic policy and standards, including initial authorization and direction of all courses, curricula, and degrees offered, admissions criteria, regulation of student academic conduct and activities, and determination of candidates for degrees;” and

Whereas there are growing concerns pertaining to faculty control of the curriculum, especially in the context of online education; and

Whereas the Boulder campus faculty fully recognize the possible impacts of emerging technologies on teaching;

Therefore, in order to clarify and confirm the following principles, the Boulder Faculty Assembly

Resolves, that:

The faculty’s ownership of and control over the curriculum is absolute and all-encompassing, extending from course creation to pedagogy to methods of delivering course content, and includes appropriate mechanisms to evaluate student learning. With regard to the ownership of courses, all courses must originate with the faculty in their respective academic units and must be taught by faculty who have been approved to teach each specific course by the academic unit that grants credit for the course. Academic unit approval of all courses and the faculty who teach them must be provided by a majority of the faculty in the unit or by a unit committee authorized for that purpose (undergraduate and graduate studies committees, for instance).

The faculty at CU Boulder call on the Provost to instruct the deans of all the schools and colleges to make certain that the academic units that grant credits or confer degrees have and maintain full authority over their courses, regardless of delivery method, as outlined above.

In as much as decisions made at the University of Colorado system level have an impact on the reputation and the quality of teaching on each of the individual campuses, the CU Boulder faculty call on the system Faculty Council to develop a mechanism to gather feedback and to coordinate with all the campus Provosts to make certain that these principles of faculty ownership and control of the curriculum are inviolable throughout the University system.

Submitted by BFA Bylaws Committee: October 14, 2019
Approved by the BFA Executive Committee: October 21, 2019
Submitted to the BFA General Assembly: November 7, 2019
Approved Unanimously: December 5, 2019

¹ <https://www.cu.edu/regents/laws-and-policies/regent-laws/article-5-faculty>