



Boulder Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

BFA Executive Committee Notice of Motion
Recommendation to Review the Boulder FCQ Process
BFA-R-3-042224

Whereas the [Faculty Course Questionnaire \(FCQ\)](#) is a required part of annual faculty evaluation on the Boulder campus and is intended as an assessment tool to provide actionable feedback to instructors with the goal of improving the learning environment; and

Whereas the last time campus conducted a comprehensive review of the FCQ process was part of the [FCQ Redesign Project in 2016](#); and

Whereas Boulder faculty have expressed concerns about the open comment section of the FCQs regarding the impacts on underrepresented faculty and the misuse of the section for students to report anonymous sexual misconduct, discrimination and/or harassment of protected classes instead of following recommended campus reporting procedures; and

Whereas when the FCQ open comment section is mistakenly used by students to file misconduct complaints instead of following recommended campus reporting procedures it can result in the student not receiving needed campus support services; and

Whereas Boulder faculty are concerned that there are not sufficient alternatives to the FCQ open comment section for both individual faculty and units to gather anonymous student feedback on courses, teaching methods, and instructors; and

Whereas Boulder faculty and the Boulder Faculty Assembly have long noted concerns¹ regarding the use of FCQ scores for faculty personnel actions given the inherent biases in student evaluations in both qualitative and quantitative measures.

Whereas according to University of Colorado Administrative Policy Statement ([APS](#)) [1009 Multiple Means of Teaching Evaluation](#) “each campus shall have a process for determining common questions for the” [FCQ] and “that the campus process for determining common questions shall include faculty and student representatives...from the appropriate shared governance body;”

¹ https://www.colorado.edu/bfa/sites/default/files/attached-files/bfa-r-2-102918.4_fcq_approved.pdf
https://www.colorado.edu/bfa/sites/default/files/attached-files/diversityfcq_m-1-040318_approved.pdf



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Therefore, be it resolved that the Boulder Faculty Assembly recommends per [CU Administrative Policy Statement \(APS\) 1009](#); part IV. Section A that the CU Boulder Office of Academic Affairs convene a working group composed of faculty and student representatives from or nominated by the appropriate shared governance bodies to meet during academic year 2024-2025 to review alternatives and improvements to the current campus FCQ process. Additionally, the BFA asks this group to consider the following items:

1. What processes do AAU peer universities utilize for student course evaluations and for course improvement based on student course evaluations?
2. Do AAU peer universities utilize student course evaluations as part of faculty merit review and/or reappointment, promotion and tenure review? If so, how?
3. Are there academic units on campus that have enhanced their course evaluation processes based on recommended practices?
4. Should information be added to the FCQ instrument to provide students with a better understanding about how academic units utilize FCQ results, why student feedback matters, and how to provide constructive feedback, in particular for open comment sections?
5. How can the university better provide students with guidance on reporting inappropriate faculty behavior and on available campus support services?

Submitted by BFA Executive Committee: April 22, 2024

Approved for submission to Assembly by the BFA Executive Committee: April 29, 2024

Submitted to the BFA General Assembly: May 2, 2024

Scheduled for Assembly Vote on: September 5, 2024



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