

Climate Science and Education Committee (CSEC)

Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA)

University of Colorado Boulder

Annual Report

AY 2020–2021

Background and Establishment of Committee

Prior to formation as a BFA standing committee, the Climate Science and Education Committee (CSEC) existed as an *ad hoc* committee called the Boulder Faculty Climate Science and Education Committee (BFCSEC). Their activities over the previous few years included sponsoring BFA resolutions (BFA-R-120116 and BFA-R-1-090519), holding two public speaker events to raise awareness of CU Boulder work on climate change, and engaging with various campus student groups and administrative units on relevant issues concerning climate change and campus sustainability (*e.g.*, carbon offsets, divestment, *etc.*).

CSEC was approved as a new standing committee by vote of the BFA General Assembly on 2 Apr. 2020. Elections for seats on CSEC were held during Sep. 2020.

Summary of AY 2020–2021 Activities

Elections

The committee was successfully filled through these elections. Following the elections, BFA seats were held by Lisa Barlow (Environmental Studies), Carol Cogswell (Electrical, Computer & Energy Engineering), Samuel Flaxman (Ecology & Evolutionary Biology), Kris Karnauskas (Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences), Steve Nerem (Aerospace Engineering Sciences), David Paradis (History), Tad Pfeffer (Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering), and Daniel Riffell (Mechanical Engineering). Kris Karnauskas was selected as the chair for AY 2020–2021.

In addition to the eight members listed above, approximately 25 members of the CU Boulder community expressed interest in serving as Resource Members to the committee, ranging from faculty (*e.g.*, Max Boykoff) to campus administration (*e.g.*, Heidi VanGenderen), and have been actively involved during the committee's inaugural year.

Meetings

Due to COVID19, all meetings during AY 2020–2021 were held virtually on Zoom. Meetings were held on 1 Oct. 2020 (kickoff), 14 Dec. 2020 (with AECOM/Energy Master Plan), 17 Feb. 2021 (discuss and prepare Energy Master Plan feedback), 24 Feb. 2021 (with Susie Strife of Boulder County Sustainability), and 2 Apr. 2021 (with CUSG). Some members of CSEC also attended the 8 Jun. 2021 final presentation by AECOM of the Energy Master Plan. In addition, the CSEC chair (Kris Karnauskas) attended virtually every weekly BFA Executive Committee meeting during AY 2020–2021.

Energy Master Plan

A primary emphasis of CSEC during AY 2020–2021 was collaboration with CU Boulder administration and the consulting firm (AECOM) on development of the campus Energy Master Plan. This involved meeting with AECOM, reading a draft of the report, meeting again to prepare detailed feedback on the draft plan, providing a

document synthesizing CSEC feedback on the draft Energy Master Plan, and following up with the final presentation by AECOM of the Energy Master Plan.

Engagement with CUSG

During the spring semester of 2021, CU Boulder Student Government (CUSG) reached out to CSEC to obtain guidance on a draft of CUSG Resolution 94 LCR 19 – A Resolution Reaffirming Demands to Administration to Address the Climate Emergency. CSEC met with CUSG leaders (including the CUSG Environmental Board) to discuss concepts and language contained in the draft resolution. CSEC provided several points of feedback to CUSG, particularly emphasizing that campus curriculum falls under the purview of the faculty. The CSEC Chair also presented the resolution to the BFA Executive Committee seeking a resolution to support the CUSG resolution (with a representative of CUSG present to field questions). CSEC voted unanimously to support the resolution, thus signing the resolution appendix (a list of supporting bodies and individuals).

Semesterly public talk

Due to the COVID19 pandemic (higher-than-usual levels of faculty stress, “Zoom fatigue,” uncertain budgets, *etc.*), CSEC opted to not hold the semesterly public talks during AY 2020–2021. However, these were very successful and well-attended events in the past (see Background), and CSEC plans to resume these events in AY 2021–2022.