



Boulder Faculty Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

BFA Executive Committee Notice of Motion

Resolution Supporting Academic Unit Control over Teaching Modality

BFA-R-2-082420

Whereas there have been disturbing recent reports of teaching faculty feeling pressured into teaching in person, as opposed to remotely;

Whereas according to Regent Law 5.A.1.(B), "Tenured and tenure-track faculty with appropriate participation by instructional, research, and clinical faculty, have the principal responsibility for decisions concerning pedagogy, curriculum, research, scholarly or creative work, academic ethics, and recommendations on the selection and evaluation of faculty";

Whereas according to Regent Policy 5.A.1.B.(1), "The faculty shall have the principal role in originating academic policy and standards related to: the initiation and direction of all courses, curricula, and degree offerings; admissions criteria, grading and standards for continuation; regulation of student academic conduct; and determination of candidates for honors and degrees";

Whereas this has been generally understood to mean that the academic units that grant academic credit associated with courses (departments, programs, institutes, etc.) are responsible for making curricular decisions concerning course offerings each semester. In particular, academic units have the authority to determine who teaches which courses, where and when, and with what content;

Whereas the current pandemic makes especially clear that such decisions necessarily also include the question of teaching modality (in person, remote, hybrid, etc.) for each course offering;

Whereas according to Regent Law 5.A.1.(C), "The administration has the principal responsibility for the internal operations and external relations of the university. Issues concerning the academic calendar, course scheduling, and teaching modalities shall be determined in collaboration with the faculty";

Whereas decisions concerning teaching modality are clearly pedagogical decisions;

Be it resolved that:

Only the units (departments, programs, institutes, etc.) that grant the academic credit associated with courses will determine the format in which those courses are taught, and who will teach them. While the BFA strongly supports the principle, enshrined in Regent Law and Policy, that ultimate authority for these decisions rests with the academic unit as a whole, it also strongly supports the ideal that individual instructors' preferences regarding teaching modality be respected, and that such preferences not be held against them in any evaluations, such as merit, reappointment, promotion, and tenure evaluations.

Introduced by the BFA Executive Committee: August 24, 2020

Approved by the BFA Executive Committee: August 31, 2020

Submitted to the BFA General Assembly: September 3, 2020

Approved by the BFA General Assembly: October 2, 2020

In favor: 51; Opposed: 4; Abstain: 3