

**TO:** Lynne Howard, BFA Program Coordinator and Bob Ferry, BFA Chair

**FROM:** Seth Myers, Chair Academic Affairs Committee

**DATE:** May 27, 2020

**RE:** AAC Year-End Report for AY 19-20

### **Introduction:**

This was a good year, until it began to end and end strangely. Nonetheless, the AAC was productive and moved through a number of policies and directly addressed the concerns of the faculty. While a number of our projects were interrupted by the closure of campus, I nonetheless feel that we were able to increase the productivity and visibility of the committee.

As ever, I welcome any and all feedback as to how I as chair or the committee might promote and support the work of the Boulder faculty.

### **Membership:**

Seth Myers, Chair  
Shanta De Alwis  
Nabilah Carlon  
Susan Nevelow-Mart

#### Resources:

Kathryn Pieplow  
Mary Kraus  
Katherine Eggert

As of this report, the AAC has three vacancies for “other units” representatives.

### **Topics and Projects:**

\*The AAC Chair acted as the BFA representative to the campus ARPAC for the discontinuance of the International Baccalaureate degree in keeping with Regents’ law.

\* We heard a presentation from Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Beth Myers on Civitas, a predictive analytics software package that the university will subscribe to for the next three years. This software uses 54 variables to track and then predict student retention based on student performance, use of academic resources (tutoring programs and such), and on courses. There are many benefits to this program, and Provost Myers will be presenting them across campus. However, we also discussed some of the implications of a program like this. As chair, I will propose to Bob Ferry that Beth present this program to the Executive Committee in order to determine what our response should be. Please let me know if you object to this approach or have any comments or questions.

\*We worked with Katherine Eggert, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Planning on the creation of a policy for suggesting changes to the Faculty Reporting of Professional Activities tool. As a result of the BFA Diversity Committee's desire to add diversity activities to the FRPA, it became clear that no such policy existed and that changes were basically mandated and implemented by the office of Faculty Affairs and the OIT engineers who maintained the technology. Following the protocols of the new "Policy on policies," the policy we wrote with SVP Eggert was accepted and made official.

\*We submitted a brief to Dean James White and the interdisciplinary about our concern for the "best practices" of co-teaching. Susan Nevelow-Mart, Director of the Law Library, spearheaded our engagement with this issue and our response to it. This issue was raised in the analysis of the results from the faculty wide survey administered by Seth Hornstein.

\*We worked with SVP Eggert on a policy for posthumous degrees. No such policy existed, which left departments and administrators in awkward positions. Our new policy is generous and flexible and should offer solace to families and structure to those who must make such decisions.

\*We considered and voted on our non-voting members and unanimously agreed that Katherine Eggert, Mary Kraus, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Michele Moses, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, and Kathryn Pieplow, PRD Ad Hoc Committee Chair and emeritus remain invited to all committee meetings.

\*We revised the AAC charter to represent our current scope, especially in terms of the offices with which we liaise.

\*We reported on the state of legacy admissions. The Chair had conversations with Daryl Maeda, Associate Dean for Student Success and Clark Brigger, Executive Director for Admissions. They both suggested that the numbers for admission demonstrate that every student who qualifies for admission is admitted. Clark stated that while legacy is an unavoidable aspect of the Common Application, the university does not direct admissions officers to consider legacy when offering admission.

\*We worked to develop a response to the administration's push for online education.

\*We wrote a version of faculty principles to direct the administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

\*Our work on the transfer credit policy stalled in the fall semester. I'm not entirely sure why.

### **Looking forward:**

As chair, I have to admit that I continue to learn the expectations and culture of the BFA. I have tried to make the AAC a little more visible in the BFA, and have held regular meetings with albeit sparse attendance, but high morale.

Also, SVP Eggert indicated that the university would be revising many of its policies, and we have committed to help her in whatever way we can.

My biggest hope for the coming year is that we might fill our 3 vacant seats. With more members I would be able to delegate more and to lean on the intelligence and expertise of the faculty with worthwhile results.