

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

FROM: Seth Myers, Chair Academic Affairs Committee

DATE: April 27, 2021

RE: AAC Year-End Report for AY 20-21

Overview:

This was a strange and quiet year for the Academic Affairs Committee. As chair, after our first and only meeting of the year, I elected to conduct our business over email when possible in recognition of screen fatigue and the extraordinary pressures and tasks of teaching and working during a pandemic.

Overall, though rarely used, we remain a resource for the campus's Office of Academic Affairs, ready to work when they have need. I anticipate that next year, as the focus of Academic Affairs shifts from the management of the emergency back toward academic policies, we will be called upon.

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
Colleen Reid
Christian Hammons
Shivakant Mishra
Susan Nevelow-Mart
Merinda McLure

Resources:

Kathryn Pieplow
Mary Kraus
Michele Moses
Katherine Eggert

As of this report, the AAC has one vacancy for an "other units" representative. Seth Myers is also up for reelection to the committee, which he will pursue in September.

Topics and Projects:

At our first meeting in October 2020, our agenda including discussing the relevance of a faculty query to our committee's charge (we concluded that it wasn't, and sent that conclusion with our feedback nonetheless) and other agenda items. We had none. We reiterated that we would

continue to be prepared to work with SVPAPA Eggert's office on policy changes as they arose. And we concluded that we would try to build an ethos of helpfulness without creating work for its own sake.

In the fall, we also served as the faculty governance sponsor of a new policy that would formally include "diversity" as its own category toward the assessment of merit. This concluded our work on that policy.

Following this work, as chair, I sent the committee monthly emails soliciting agenda items for future meetings. I received thanks, but no more. And in keeping with so many calls to be flexible and compassionate with our fellow humans in whatever role, although I continued to solicit items, we did not meet again.

Looking forward:

This year has seen the AAC membership return to fully attended, and I have good reason to believe that Professor de Alwis's seat, which will be vacant on his retirement in the fall, will fill quickly. I believe that we are still in the early stages of developing an ethos for this committee.

Next year, I hope to continue to grow our reputation as a committee that works effectively at all tasks given it. I would like for us to be known a "workhorse" committee that can be relied on for thoughtful work delivered efficiently. This reputation will only bring us more attention and more opportunity to do the work of faculty governance.