

Ceal Barry to head CU Buffs athletic director search, won't be candidate for job

By Brian Howell Buffzone.com Boulder Daily Camera

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The University of Colorado has made the first step in finding a new athletic director.

On Friday, CU announced a seven-person search committee, which is charged with finding candidates for the vacant AD position. The committee is looking for a replacement for Mike Bohn, who was fired last month after eight years of leading the athletic department.

Officially, Bohn was forced to resign, effective June 3. Interim AD Ceal Barry has been serving as interim AD ever since.

Barry will serve as chairperson for the committee. Other members of the committee are Kelly Fox, CU's senior vice chancellor and chief financial officer; Doug Looney, an alumni representative and former writer for Sports Illustrated; Joe Jupille, who is a faculty representative; David Clough, the faculty athletic representative; Kurt Gulbrand from the CU Foundation; and Brittany Lewis, a junior on the track and field team who is representing the student-athletes.

"These individuals have graciously agreed to serve on the committee and each represents a key constituency with a strong stake in the success of our athletic programs," CU chancellor Philip DiStefano said in a press release.

Barry said she is pleased with the group that was formed and excited as they move forward in their search. She said that several members of the committee, including Fox, Clough and Jupille will work closely with the new athletic director, so their input will be valuable.

Lewis was recommended by Barry to represent the student-athletes on this committee. Barry said it's important to have an athlete on the committee because everything the AD does "impacts the student-athletes." Barry also added that she believes student-athletes are a good judge of people, and that she told Lewis, "We will listen to you."

Clough has served on several search committees for the CU athletic department and "has contacts everywhere," Barry said. Jupille is on the Boulder Faculty Assembly (BFA) Intercollegiate Athletics committee, whose main priority is the academic well-being of student-athletes.

The group will meet for the first time on Thursday. At that point, DiStefano will present a general profile of what he wants in the next athletic director. The committee will then go over the job description and discuss how to move forward.

DiStefano said CU's goal is to have a new athletic director in place "certainly by the start of football season this fall."

The Buffs open the season Sept. 1 against Colorado State. Barry reiterated DiStefano's goal, adding that the school hopes to have the new AD hired by the start of the football season, if not

already in place.

She did say, however, that the committee will not rush to meet a deadline. The main goal is make sure they do a thorough search. Barry said, "There is no perfect candidate," but that CU needs to find the right for the department.

It is common for athletic director searches to take several months, and CU's timeline is right in line with other schools that have hired new athletic director in recent years. Barry said she and DiStefano have already received inquiries from interested parties.

The news of the search committee was released at about 3:15 p.m. on Friday. By 5 p.m., Barry had already had possible applicants calling her.

It'll be the job of the search committee to narrow the list of applicants to present to DiStefano and CU president Bruce Benson.

Barry was originally considered to be a candidate for the job, because of her 30 years in CU's athletic department. However, she said that after a lot of thought, she decided it was best not to put her hat in the ring. She said her strengths are as an internal leader within the department, while the new AD will likely spend a lot of time on external matters, such as fund raising.

Until the new AD is hired, Barry will continue to lead the department.

"Ceal is moving things ahead and working hard to position our department operationally and financially," DiStefano said. "She will also play a key role in easing the transition of our new AD once he or she is chosen."

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CU Buffs name committee to search for new athletic director

The Denver Post The Denver Post

Posted:

DenverPost.com

University of Colorado chancellor Phil DiStefano announced the formation of a search committee to find a new director of intercollegiate athletics, CU announced Friday.

The resignation of previous CU athletic director Mike Bohn was effective June 3.

"I am delighted to announce the formation of the committee that will seek new leadership for CU athletics," said DiStefano in a statement. "These individuals have graciously agreed to serve on the committee, and each represents a key constituency with a strong stake in the success of our athletic programs. I am grateful for their service."

Members of the search committee include:

- Ceal Barry, CU-Boulder interim director of intercollegiate athletics and chair of the search
- Kelly Fox, CU-Boulder senior vice chancellor and chief financial officer
- Doug Looney, alumni representative, former Sports Illustrated writer
- Joe Jupille, CU-Boulder faculty representative, BFA Intercollegiate Athletics Committee
- David Clough, CU-Boulder Pac-12 faculty representative
- Kurt Gulbrand, CU Foundation
- Brittany Lewis, CU-Boulder student-athlete (track)

DiStefano lauded Barry for agreeing to serve as chair of the committee. She also is currently serving as interim director of intercollegiate athletics and will hold the post until a successor is chosen.

"I don't want anyone to think that while we search for a new AD that things are standing still in athletics," said DiStefano. "Ceal is moving things ahead and working hard to position our department operationally and financially. She will also play a key role in easing the transition of our new AD once he or she is chosen. I remain grateful for her leadership in taking on these vital roles."

In a statement, Barry acknowledged that those roles of search chair and interim athletic director preclude her being a candidate for the post.

"I thought long and hard about it and came to the conclusion that I can best serve the university and the department by working hard as the interim director, and by helping move the process forward by chairing the search," said Barry. "As a former coach, and current senior woman administrator and associate athletic director, I look forward to helping the new AD hit the ground running to achieve our goals and move the department forward."

DiStefano said the goal is to have a new AD in place "as soon as possible - certainly by the start of football season this fall."