By-Laws Committee Minutes
April 12, 2013

In attendance: Glenn Lesses, Rick Heldrick, Susan Farrell, Sarah Owens, Lynn Cherry, Deanna Caveny-Noecker, Heather Alexander

1. We discussed the proposal from the Faculty Welfare Committee to form an adjunct advisory committee at the college. The motion was withdrawn from the Senate’s April agenda to give By-Laws a chance to consider it before Senate discussion. Members of the By-Laws Committee raised the following questions, concerns, and comments concerning the proposal:
   --What would be the charge and the composition of the committee?
   --Who would this committee report to? (The Senate? Academic Affairs? The President’s Office?) Some By-Laws committee members were concerned that an adjunct committee should not have a more direct route to the administration (by reporting directly to the Provost or the President) than other regular faculty committees have.
   --Would such a committee be a good idea when it might be in the college’s best interest to focus on reducing adjunct use in the first place?
   --Currently, there’s no uniform mechanism for evaluating adjuncts, which is a problem.
   --With the increased emphasis on college-wide assessment, it’s clear that adjuncts will be involved in processes at the college other than just teaching.
   --Procedurally, should this issue be brought to the Senate for discussion before or after a formal motion is made? Would it be better to have a specific motion on the floor for debate, or would it be better for Faculty Welfare to craft a motion after hearing some discussion of the issue in the Senate?
We didn’t formally vote on the motion, but Glenn will pass along these concerns/comments to the Faculty Welfare Committee.

2. We very briefly discussed the report from Kathryn Bender concerning how policy websites function at other universities. Based on Kathryn’s report, Deanna handed out a draft she’d written of some guiding principles for the CofC policy site. Unfortunately, we ran out of time before we really had a chance to discuss these draft guidelines—it’ll have to be an issue for next year’s committee to take up.