By-Laws Committee Minutes
January 28, 2013

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

1. Heather reported that the sentence about a majority of the members of Senate committees having to be senators was present in the 1999 version of the FAM, but was absent in the 2001 version. The 2000 version of the FAM was missing from the library archives, but Heather is currently searching Senate minutes from that period to see if she can trace whether the omission was purposeful or accidental. Glenn suggested that if we can’t solve the mystery by the time the Nominations Committee has to act this spring, we’ll need to operate on the assumption that the rule about a majority of senators is still in effect.

2. We approved the motion from the Academic Standards Committee (first considered at the Oct. 5, 2012 meeting) to add a non-voting, ex-officio member from the registrar’s office.

3. We decided to remand to the Faculty Welfare Committee Joe Kelly’s proposal to add “diversity training” to the list of items that constitute evidence when evaluating teaching for T&P purposes. In addition, Glenn will copy the T&P Committee on the memo, for their information.

4. We agreed to invite the new college attorney, Kathryn Bender, to the next meeting of the By-Laws Committee. The main issue we want to speak with her about is the relationship between the FAM and the college policies website. We also debated inviting Julia Eichelberger, a Faculty Administrative Fellow appointed to work on this issue, to the same meeting, but decided it might be more productive to invite Julia after we talk to the attorney, if we feel it is necessary.

5. Deanna reported on ongoing FAM revisions.
   a. The committee approved changes Brian McGee made to the section dealing with Committees of the College.
   b. The HR changes that simply update policies or else refer FAM users to the policy website have not yet been officially approved by HR, but Deanna believes we can move ahead with these anyway.
   c. The Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action section, which our committee thought might fit better on the policy website than in the FAM, is a bit more complicated. Deanna is still conferring with Ed Pope (Human Resources) and Kathryn Bender (Legal Affairs) about this section.

6. Finally, we decided not to go ahead with our earlier plan (from the Nov. 30, 2012 meeting) to add a policy website specialist from the President’s Office as a non-voting, ex-officio member of our committee. Our reasoning was that this By-Laws change would be permanent, even after the need for policy website discussions might have passed. In addition, it would be difficult to ensure that the President’s designee would necessarily be a person with policy website expertise.