By-Laws Committee Minutes  
March 15, 2013

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

1. Glenn brought five By-Laws motions to the Faculty Senate on March 12 for initial presentation. These motions included:
   1. Amending the composition of the Graduate Education Committee
   2. Amending the composition and duties of the By-Laws Committee
   3. Amending the composition of the Academic Planning Committee
   4. Providing that standing Senate committees include at least one senator
   5. Providing that motions brought to the Senate by By-Laws don’t need a 30-day review period before coming to a vote

(Update: all five motions were passed by the Senate at the April 2 meeting).

2. We discussed a motion from the Committee on Graduate Education, Continuing Education, and Special Programs to add a non-voting graduate student member. Because there’s no time to bring this motion to the Senate this year (because of the 30-day notification period that’s currently required), we agreed Glenn would inform the committee chair that the motion could be resubmitted for Senate approval next year and that, meanwhile, the committee can invite whoever they want to their meetings.

3. We briefly discussed concerns of the Nominations Committee about the timeline for filling committee slates in relation to Senate elections, sabbatical approvals, and tenure decisions. Nominations committee members feel it would be helpful for these matters to be decided before they solicit committee preferences from faculty members. We agreed this wasn’t a large problem, since such decisions affect only a small percentage of faculty members each year. We also suggested that the Nominations Committee solicit committee preferences and fill slates earlier, to leave time for replacing any faculty members who won’t be able to serve on committees.

4. Joe Kelly’s motion to add pedagogical diversity training under the list of evidence for teaching effectiveness will be reviewed by the Faculty Welfare Committee on March 27. We agreed to advise Joe to bring it to the Senate himself at the April 2 meeting.

5. We discussed changes that the Committee on Institutional Effectiveness wants to make to their committee structure. Rick wondered why they suggested having two designees from Academic Affairs. We also thought it might be a bad idea to remove the designee from Institutional Research from the committee. We wondered as well about removing CHE approval from the committee’s duties and whether the committee really needed 9 members. Glenn will provide feedback to the committee chair and suggest she resubmit the proposal next year.

6. Finally, we discussed Rick’s idea to have the library manage the policy website since librarians are experts in information management systems. While there was not general approval of the idea, we thought librarians could at least be responsible for archiving policy information.