Committee on Faculty Welfare –

September 15, 2011
Meeting Minutes

Attending: Matt Blessing (co-chair, recording), John Cotton, Jeanette Kraemer, Steve Long, Richard Povinelli, Rebecca Sanders, David Zampino

Excused: James L. Sankovitz.

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m. and members introduced themselves. Rebecca Sanders and David Zampino were welcomed to the CoFW. Povinelli asked if Academic Senate had designated a liaison with CoFW. Blessing indicated that he would contact James South on this matter.

2. Blessing asked if any member would be willing to serve as co-chair of the committee, as has been recent practice. There were no volunteers, but after the meeting John Cotton graciously agreed to serve in order to provide continuity through the 2013-2014 academic year.

3. Noting that three of eight CoFW members were from Arts & Sciences, committee members agreed that having at least two more representatives from other colleges (Communication, Education, Law and Nursing) would be valuable. Blessing indicated that he would confer with James South on this matter.

4. Blessing distributed the rosters for the CFW Subcommittee on Part-Time Faculty, and the Subcommittee on Equity. Zampino will confer with Dale Kaser on the vacant roster for Part-Time Faculty, and Blessing will invite Lisa Hanson from Equity to an upcoming meeting.

5. Blessing reported that Dr. South and other members of the Senate’s Executive Committee would soon be issuing a charge for CoFW. Committee members discussed other concerns that they might investigate, including: (a) further work on a statement about faculty civility/colllegiality; (b) concerns about health insurance; (c) a complete smoking ban on campus; (d) the economic concerns of adjunct faculty, (e) anticipating a wave of faculty retirements, specifically, the need to mentor younger faculty members and to prepare for this transition; (f) faculty participation in governance at the departmental and college levels. It was agreed that Blessing would draft & share an open letter to Marquette faculty, requesting their feedback on possible CoFW initiatives. Members would then distribute to colleagues within their own colleges and the library.

6. It was reported that the Academic Senate would be discussing a phased-retirement option at their September 19th meeting. The proposal is very similar to the plan presented to the Senate by the CoFW in early 2010, offering a half-time teaching load for up to three years and a financial stipend of $14,400 for health insurance during this period. The phased retirement system would require a tenure buy-out by participants.

7. Members agreed that upcoming fall meetings would be scheduled for Thursdays, starting at 3:30 p.m.
8. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.