Towson University Retired Faculty Association Executive Committee Minutes from Friday, December 13, 2019

Attending: Tracy Miller, Ron Matlon, Jim Anthony, Fran Bond, Ray Castaldi, Pat Alt, Florence Newman, Peggy Benner, Don Forester, David Larkin, Jim Paulsen, Ellie Hofstetter, Annette Chappell and Jane Wolfson. Committee Member, Robert Hansen also was present.

Absent: Martha Siegel

The meeting was called to order by President Miller at 1:30.

1. Assistant Provost Patricia Westerman, a guest at this meeting, was introduced by President Miller. After initial self-introductions by TURFA members, Dr. Westerman was asked to tell us about FACET and how TURFA could assist with its mission. Dr. Westerman explained that FACET provides support for research, scholarship and teaching. Special attention is being placed on grant writing, cross disciplinary collaboration, and emerging technologies. TURFA members could serve as faculty mentors or be experts as members of information panels. Dr. Westerman said she would post information about TURFA’s Research and Scholarship Program and the Online Writing Support website onto the FACET website. Various other ways in which TURFA can support FACET were also discussed.

2. The draft minutes from the November 19 meeting were accepted after revision and minor correction.

3. President’s Report (Miller)
   a. Dates for future meetings, all to begin at 1:00, were set as follows: February 3, March 2, April 6, and May 4.
   b. Names of three potential speakers for the Provost’s Brunch in June were sent to Associate Provost Reitz: Britt Kirwan, Bob Caret, and Kanji Takeno.
   c. The gathering with members of the UMBC Wisdom Institute for the UMBC/TU basketball game (we won!) was enjoyed by all in spite of the terrible weather that might have limited attendance. It was noted that, in the future, parking instructions, for such an event, need to be clearer.
d. A Nomination Committee has been appointed: Bond, chair; DeLaney, Pilardi, Matlon and Benner are members. In early January a notice will be sent to members of open positions with a request for recommendations or self-nomination due at the end of January.

4. Treasurers Report (Castaldi)
   a. Membership: Total New Members = 23 so far this year. Total membership is currently 114; 29 (roughly 25%) of whom are lifetime members. Thirty prior members are unpaid for the current year. There are two unpaid members who have indicated that they will be rejoining for this year. We are awaiting their payments.
   b. TURFA Cash Account Balance = $7,485.69; TURFA Oral History Project Fund Balance = $4,248.38; TURFA Research and Scholarship Fund = $560.00
   c. Financial Statements for the last 4 years have been posted to the TURFA Executive Committee Share Point site as was requested by Matlon. Similarly, a history of membership by year has been posted on that site.
   d. Budget and Dues Policy, accepted at the last meeting, has been posted to Share Point.

5. Old Business
   a. AROHE webinar report (Matlon). Matlon led a discussion about the AROHE workshop webinar. There were 27 participants. The discussion covered various structures and funding sources for organizations at different locations. There were three types of organizations: 1) Associations supported primarily by dues along with the Provost’s Office, Human Resources and/or Alumni offices; 2) Centers which require more financial support, are funded through campus budgets, and can function as departments; 3) Emeriti Colleges which are part of Academic Affairs and receive internal and external funding. There was a discussion, to be continued, of various types of initiatives we might undertake to highlight and expand our role within the University. Particular initiatives will be topics of future discussions. Bond volunteered to explore other retiree organizations at regional schools, both public and private.

   b. Associate Member by-law proposal (Siegel). Postponed.

6. Reports
a. Emeriti Listings (Matlon and Hoffstetter): Hoffstetter has completed her review of Senate meetings in which she was searching for Emeriti nomination and approvals; there appears to be a gap between 2004-2010 in which the Senate minutes do not include this activity. During this period, letters of advancement to Emeriti status were received by retiring faculty members. This makes identification of all Emeriti Faculty more challenging.

b. Graduate Dean Search (Larkin): The interviews have been completed and the committee is to meet shortly with the Provost to submit their report.

c. Website Revisions (Matlon): Nothing to report.

d. Oral History Project (Forester): Final editing of the video interview with Ray Castaldi has been completed and will be available shortly. The other three interviews are in the process of being edited.

e. Events and Programs (Paulsen):
   i. Cox is working on a tour of the Amazon Distribution center for late January. It will start at 12:30. Name and dates of birth TURFA members interested in touring the faculty, need to be collected and submitted to Amazon as soon as possible. Amazon requires this information in advance for security purposes.
   ii. Hansen is planning to lead a tour of the Hackerman House which is part of the Walters Art Museum.
   iii. Plans are being developed for a TURFA group to attend ‘The Pirates of Penzance’ for the April 19 performance. There will be a discussion, with the director and cast, following the performance.
   iv. Plans are in process for spring trips to Ladew Gardens, a bird walk, and a nature walk.
   v. Program and Events is working with the “TURFA Talks” organizing committee about a spring talk focusing on the Arts in Baltimore.

f. SharePoint site (Matlon): The report from the task force was circulated and discussed (report attached). It was agreed that the public site should come down and that a SharePoint supervisor should be appointed.

g. Senate (Siegel via Wolfson): “The December meeting of the Academic Senate was concentrated on a lengthy discussion of the item postponed from November on allowing members of the Towson University to determine their “pronouns” and with having the community honor those choices in communications. Motion 19/20-16 was shortened essentially to the first sentence, which reads “To recommend that the university require its units to provide a formal opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to indicate a chosen pronoun that shall be reflected in direct communications.”“
h. Legislative Issues (Alt): The state Legislature not yet in session. There was a brief discussion about how the potential change in the State Retiree Prescription Plan was impacting, in the short term, those planning to retire.
i. Research and Scholarship (Larkin): The previously circulated revised ‘Guide for Application for Support for Scholarly Activities for Retired Faculty’ was approved by the committee. One application for support has been received.

7. New Business
   a. President Miller suggested we consider a panel presentation on “The Future of the Arts in Baltimore” for our second ‘TURFA Talk’ for the year. This will be developed further by Anthony, Miller and Paulsen.
   b. Chappell noted that she and Bond (as alternate) had been serving on the FACET advisory committee for the last three years and that their terms were completed. New members need to be appointed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted by Jane L. Wolfson, Secretary of TURFA