Towson University Retired Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from Friday, February 14, 2020 at 1:00.

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, and Jane Wolfson. Kameron Crump from the Office of the Provost was also present.

Absent: Annette Chappell; Martha Siegel

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by President Miller.

1. The minutes from the December 13, 2019 meeting were reviewed and accepted with a minor correction.

2. President’s Report (Miller)
   A. Dates for future meetings were set as follows: March 10, April 21 and May 19. All will start at 2:00 and be held in the TURFA Suite, Room 207 of Enrollment Services.
   B. President Miller explored our original speaker suggestions for the Provost’s Brunch for Retirees in June, and we revisited the topic to suggest other possible speakers. There was wide-spread interest in inviting Carla Hayden, Head of the Library of Congress. If she is not available in June, we will invite Fraser Smith to address the June meeting and schedule our October lecture to accommodate Carla Hayden if she is able to commit to a date. Benner will invite Hayden for her availability and President Miller will invite Smith if appropriate.
   C. The TURFA fall lecture date will depend on Carla Hayden’s schedule if she is willing to be our speaker in the fall and cannot be the speaker in June. No other discussion of the fall meeting at this time.
   D. The next TURFA Talk is scheduled for March 27, to be held in CLA 4310 starting at 3:30. The topic of the panel discussion is “Health Check on the Arts in Baltimore” with Jim Anthony (Music Department), Tom Maronick (Marketing Department) and Juanita Rockwell (Theater Department), serving as panelists. There was a brief discussion about a possible moderator for the panel.
   E. TURFA has been represented on FACET by Chappell and Bond for several years. FACET is no longer in the planning phase and the possible need for new representatives was discussed earlier. President Miller will ask Chappell if she is interested in serving in this important role. If she is not,
the task of finding a new representative will go to the Nomination Committee.

F. President Miller appointed Benner as the new Online Information Coordinator. This person will be responsible for seeing the TURFA website remains current and oversee the SharePoint site for TURFA.

3. Treasurer’s Report (Castaldi)
   A. Membership: Total new members = 24 so far this year. Total membership is currently 120; 30 (roughly 25%) of whom are lifetime members. 25 members from last year are unpaid for the current year.
   B. Funds: TURFA Cash Account Balance = $5,725.18; TURFA Oral History Project Fund Balance - $5,873.38; TURFA Research and Scholarship Fund - $610.00

4. Old Business
   A. The proposed definition of ‘Associate Member’ presented by Wolfson for Siegel was discussed. A motion was made to amend Section I, Paragraph 3, of the by-laws by replacing sentence number one as follows: “Associate Members shall be individuals who do not meet the requirements for full membership, but who are long-time members of the Towson University academic community or are related to or are partners of TURFA members and share an interest in the mission of the association.” The motion passed unanimously. It will be taken to the membership at the Provost’s brunch in June.

   B. Bond presented a summary of the structure of other retiree organizations at regional schools, both public and private, and the benefits received by retirees at Maryland Institutions with the exception of UMBC’s Wisdom Institute with which we are familiar. Of the 55 Colleges and Universities in Maryland, she contacted 15, public, private and independent, and gathered information from any office with information to share (including Employee Relations, Human Resources, Provost’s Offices). In summary, she said we are unique, “Among all Institutions contacted, Towson University was the only Institution that has an Association/Organization with an Executive Committee comprised of Retired Faculty.” A summary, of information gathered from the institutions contacted and benefits they provide to their retired faculty, is attached.

   C. Benner presented 1) a summary of the organization of the new Executive Committee SharePoint and described the contents of the various folders and 2) instructions on how to access the SharePoint site and get information posted onto it.
5. Reports

A. Emeriti Listings (Matlon reporting): Work is continuing to identify emeriti faculty and have their names included on their department’s listing of faculty. Five years of Senate minutes, i.e., 2004, 5, 7, 12, and 13, have no attached list of names of faculty granted emeritus status. Help is being sought from the Provost’s Office find the lists. To date, 218 faculty have been identified as having been granted emeritus status but not included on their departmental websites. Once the list of emeriti is complete, their names will be forwarded to the Department chairs requesting that they be included in the faculty list.

B. Graduate Dean Search (Larkin reporting): This search is continuing, and a professional search firm has been engaged to identify potential candidates.

C. Oral History Project (Forester reporting): The oral history project video of Ray Castaldi has been posted. The more recently recorded three videos are being edited. The possibility of re-submitting a grant to the University President and engaging her support for this project was discussed.

D. Events and Programs (Paulsen reporting): The trip to the Amazon distribution center is scheduled for Feb. 21, with 23 TURFA members participating. R. Hanson has agreed to be the guide for a visit to the Hackerman House which is being organized by Janet DeLaney but dates have not been set; Hanson is organizing a trip to Ladew Gardens. A visit to the Enoch Pratt main library has been set for 3/13. A bird walk is planned for 4/28. TURFA members will be invited to attend a preview discussion, with the director, preceding the April 19 campus performance of the Pirates of Penzance. The possibility of asking Jim Hull to lead a spring flower walk was mentioned.

E. Senate (Anthony reporting): It was announced at the Senate meeting that 1) a new dean of COFAC has been appointed, 2) the Dean of CLA search committee would be inviting candidates to campus shortly, 3) the University Librarian, D. Nolan was retiring and that 3) the Dean of Graduate Studies job description was being changed to Associate Provost for Research and Dean of Graduate Studies. The Senate heard reports from D. Irani about activities of the Strategic Partnerships and Applied Research group and from M. Durrington about the BTU initiative.

F. Legislative Issues (Alt reporting): Three bills have been filed that tweak the previously passed bill addressing prescription benefits for retired
state employees. The court case related to the change in prescription benefits has not been resolved.

G. Research and Scholarship (Larkin reporting): The first award has been made. The challenge is getting the word out to members and various mechanisms to do that were discussed.

H. Nomination Committee (Bond reporting): The Nomination Committee will be meeting in a few days and will present their list of nominees at the next meeting.

I. The Advocate (Newman reporting): The spring edition of The Advocate is due to be distributed in early April. She needs information from all contributors by March 15. Specifically, Newman requested reports (and photos as appropriate), from Programs and Events, the Oral History Project, the Research and Scholarship Committee, an update on the retiree prescription benefit issue, information about former faculty to be included in an ‘In Memorium’ section. It was suggested that FACET might want to write an article for inclusion in which they introduce themselves and describe how they want to work with TURFA members.

6. Matlon introduced several potential initiatives for TURFA to the group.
   A. He suggested we consider creating a Public Relations Leader/Liaison position for TURFA; such a person would prepare stories about TURFA to share with the local media, publicize our events, work on the membership brochure, etc. This person would take the publicity lead for many things involving public outreach. **A Motion was made and passed that the President should create a task force to consider creating a TURFA public relations liaison position.**

   B. Matlon suggested we consider developing a TURFA Annual Report, a slick publication that would highlight what we do, i.e. toot our own horn. **A Motion was made and passed that funds for a TURFA Annual Report should be included the FY 2020-21 budget.**

   C. Matlon suggested that we should also extend invitations to University Leadership for all TURFA events. **A motion was made and passed that the TURFA President should automatically invite University leaders to TURFA’s special events.**

   D. We discussed the importance of regular annual meeting of TURFA leadership with University leadership. **A motion was proposed and passed that the TURFA leadership team should arrange meetings at least once a year with the Towson University’s President, Provost, and Vice President**
for University Advancement to discuss ways in which TURFA can assist them to address the needs of the University.

7. New Business

A. Kam Crump explained the mechanism by which TURFA members are granted parking privileges and how they lose them when they do not renew their membership. On July 1 of each year, a list of current members and their campus ID numbers is sent to parking services. From now on, only those on this current membership list will receive parking privileges. Those who have been carried forward, as a courtesy, will be removed immediately. This information will be added to the “reminder to renew membership” letter sent to all current members in late spring. Kam also clarified the membership process.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30.

Respectfully submitted by Jane L. Wolfson, Secretary of TURFA.