Towson University Retired Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from Tuesday, March 10, 2020, Enrollment Services, Room 207.


Absent: Peggy Benner

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 by President Miller.

1. The minutes from the February 14, 2020 meeting were reviewed and accepted with a minor correction.

2. President’s Report (Miller)
   A. Provost’s Brunch is set for June 12 in the Minnegan Room. Fraser Smith, a former news analyst from the Baltimore Sun and WYPR has accepted our invitation to be a speaker at the event. The invitation to Carla Hayden was not accepted but perhaps we can have her speak at our October event.

   B. We need to come up with a program for the Brunch event in addition to a speaker. A repeat of the Towson Trivia activity was supported for the program. Time for the President and the Provost to say a few words needs to be included as well as time for members to vote on nominees and changes to the bylaws.

   C. For the October lecture series, there was wide-spread interest in inviting Carla Hayden, Head of the Library of Congress. We could schedule our October lecture to accommodate Carla Hayden if she is able to commit to a date. Benner will be asked to pursue that opportunity with Hayden.

   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 “The Future of the Arts in Baltimore” with Jim Anthony (Music Department), Tom Maronick (Marketing Department), Juanita Rockwell (Theater Department) and Marco Merrick (Baltimore musician) serving as panelists. Tim Smith from the Baltimore Sun has accepted the invitation to moderate the talk.

   E. Precha Thavikulwat has agreed to serve as the new representative to FACET. This appointment will start August 15, 2020, the start of the fall semester.

   F. President Miller inquired whether TURFA members are welcome to use the Burdick Gym facilities at the request of a TURFA member. It seems that we
are. This information needs to be included on the website as a membership benefit.

G. Budget requests for the 2020-2021 year are due April 1. Castaldi distributed budget request forms: these should be submitted to him, for consideration by the Budget Committee, by April 1.

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. Twenty-five 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. Matlon met with Associate Provost Reitz to address the challenge of getting all emeriti faculty included on departmental faculty listings. He provided her with a draft letter to send to all departmental chairs requesting that emeriti faculty not currently listed, be listed. The Associate Provost indicated she will work on developing a protocol so that there is a central repository of names of emeriti faculty in the Provost’s Office
   B. Matlon presented the report of the Public Relations Task Force (members Benner and Larkin). The Committee moved that the standing committee, The Advocate Newsletter Editor’s Group, created on November 30, 2018, be renamed the Public Relations Committee. This committee will be responsible for all publicity and public relations efforts and be the public face of TURFA. The motion passed unanimously. A list of responsibilities is attached. After some discussion, it was agreed that, in light of the various tasks and responsibilities given to this committee, the Chair of the committee have the responsibility of selecting members with the appropriate talents.

5. Reports
   A. Search for an Associate Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies, previously the Graduate Dean Search (Larkin reporting): This search is continuing, and a professional search firm has been engaged to identify potential candidates. Review of candidates is to start on 3/19 and the position filled by the end of April.
   B. Oral History Project (Forester reporting): The most recently recorded three videos have been completed and sent to the archives. The library is
working on a long-term storage strategy for the videos. Currently the committee plans to submit a request to TURFA for funding for next year to supplement support from one college Dean.

C. Events and Programs (Paulsen reporting): A visit to the Enoch Pratt main library has been set for 3/13. The TURFA talk is on 3/27. On 4/19 there will be a visit to the Walters Museum. TURFA members will be invited to attend a preview discussion with the director, preceding the April 19 campus performance of the *Pirates of Penzance*. A bird walk is planned for 4/28. The possibility of trips to Boordy Vineyards and the Guinness Brewery are being discussed.

D. Senate (Anthony reporting): The Senate met on March 2 with the Provost providing an update on preparations for the coronavirus and how the University was responding. Towson will comply with all USM plans. There were also updates on construction projects and financial planning. Siegel mentioned that student fees now depended on the student’s major.

E. Legislative Issues (Alt reporting): The court case related to the change in prescription benefits has not been resolved. Meetings were being held today on the prescription plan. Miller said she would encourage retirees to contact their representatives in Annapolis to express their concern about possible changes to the plan.

F. Research and Scholarship (Larkin reporting): Information about the availability of financial support will be included in *The Advocate* to encourage applications.

G. Nomination Committee (Bond reporting): The Nomination Committee, Bond (Chair), Matlon, Pilardi, DeLany and Benner, solicited names from the membership. All members who had been recommended for office indicated that they would accept the nomination. The final slate is

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Jane Wolfson-President-elect
Jim DiLisio-Member at Large
Tom Maronick-Member at Large
Martha Siegel-Representative to University Academic Senate
Jim Anthony- Alternate to University Academic Senate
Jim DiLisio- Alternate to University Academic Senate
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All nominees will be sent an email confirming their nomination and asking for a photo, a brief description of their career at Towson and a response to a question proposed by the committee. The time-line for elections is: nominee materials received by 3/25; information about nominees and the
voting process sent to members in early May; ballots prepared for
distribution at the Provost’s Brunch; and election held at the Brunch.

H. *The Advocate* (Newman reporting): The spring edition of *The Advocate* is
due to be distributed in early April. She needs information from all
contributors as soon as possible. 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 and information from FACET
introducing it and describing how this office wants to work with TURFA
members.

6. Matlon led a discussion about several potential initiatives for TURFA
   A. It was agreed that, at this time, sponsoring money-making events
   presented many obstacles.
   B. It might be possible to engage members more effectively if care were
taken to review interests of new retirees and involve them in particular
committees.
   C. It appears that retirees receive discounts at the Campus bookstore and can
   use Burdick gym. Fees at the Wellness Center needs to be explored.
   D. At this time, there was no interest in initiating a new survey. This should
   be revisited 5 years after the original one.

   *It should be noted that as the meeting was drawing to a close, we received
notification that the University was cancelling classes and on-campus
activities, at close of business today because of the Coronavirus outbreak.*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted by Jane L. Wolfson, Secretary of TURFA.
Responsibilities of the Public Relations Committee

As delegated by the Chair, members of the PR Committee will accomplish the following:

1. Publicize information about major TURFA events and stories to various media outlets, both on and off campus

2. Place events on the SharePoint calendar (TURFA OIC)

3. Publicize grants given by the Research and Scholarship Committee

4. Publicize ongoing Oral History Project videos

5. Assist in the preparation of TURFA brochures and handouts

6. Write, edit, and distribute the Advocate twice a year (Advocate editor)

7. Prepare and distribute the TURFA annual report

8. Prepare a document specifying and describing areas where TURFA can offer assistance to the University.