Towson University Retired Faculty Association (TURFA) Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes - February 12, 2016 - Administration Building 310

Attending: Don Forester, Ron Matlon, Fran Bond, David Larkin, Florence Newman, Peg Benner, Joe Topping, Maggie Reitz, Mary T. Casterline, Hillary Giddings

Absent: Ray Castaldi, Annette Chappell

Meeting called to order by President Forester at 10:05 a.m.

Minutes of November 12, 2015 approved. (Treasurer's Report submitted earlier noted.)

Maggie Reitz from the Provost's Office submitted floor plans for TURFA office space to be on the second floor in Enrollment Services. The area would be called "Space for Volunteers." Discussion followed. The Executive Committee endorsed this idea and thanked Dr. Reitz for her work on this matter. The proposal will now go to the Towson University Space Committee for consideration.

Review of UMS/TU documents on Emeritus Status:

- There may be a discrepancy between the two documents - UMS has "quality of service" as a criterion and TU may not have this factor built into its ART document. Difficulties in determining "quality" were discussed. Some felt that promotion and tenure may have already addressed the "quality" criterion. Some felt that departments could provide input on "quality" before a vote on emeritus status is taken. Special attention was given to the 15-year provision as to how it relates to the "quality" criterion. A request was made to have the "quality" matter reviewed in the TU ART document.
- The TU ART document frequently uses the terminology "...or equivalent." A request was made to have this matter reviewed as to its meaning and whether this terminology is needed.
- A request was made to consider removing the list of benefits from the TU ART document since these benefits change over time.
- A request was made to have one person from TURFA put on the emeritus review committee as a non-voting member.

Connections between TURFA and College Deans

- Maggie Reitz asked deans to support TURFA initiatives.
- Closer connections are needed to inform retirees about what is going on in the colleges and to let the colleges know how retirees might assist them.
- Suggestions were made to (a) invite deans to our fall and spring general sessions, (b) send "The Advocate" to deans (and chairpersons as well), and (c) have TURFA establish liaisons to each college dean.

Public Relations

- Don Forester will contact "The Towerlight" to see if they will write a story about TURFA.
• Don Forester will contact the TU Alumni magazine to see if they will write something about TURFA.

Nominating Committee

• The committee consists of Don Forester (chair), Fran Bond and Ron Matlon.
• The committee needs to find nominees for the positions of President-Elect and one representative-at-large.
• The committee will try to get someone from Health Professions on the Executive Committee so that all colleges are represented.
• A by-law amendment will be drafted to ensure that all colleges are represented on the TURFA Executive Committee. That by-law will be presented at the spring general meeting.

Librarians should be eligible to join TURFA. A by-law amendment will be drafted to be presented to the membership at the spring general meeting.

Spring 2016 General Session and Election

• This event will be held Wednesday, June 8, 2016 in the Potomac Lounge (time to be determined). It will either be a breakfast or brunch.
• The event will be co-hosted by the Provost's Office and TURFA.
• OSHER might help us find the appropriate guest speaker. Florence Newman will contact Jackie Gratz.

Baltimore County's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

• Fran Bond explained the program and distributed RSVP brochures.
• This material should be available to the TURFA membership at the June general meeting.

Writing Center

• The EC decided not to include Writing Center information on our website due to the potential difficulties of having TURFA mentors serve as mentors to graduate students.
• However, an e-mail should be composed to our members to have them contact the Writing Center if they are interested in volunteering their help as mentors for graduate students.

TURFA’s next newsletter, The Advocate, is progressing and will be released in early April (Peg Benner, editor).

Programs and Events Committee

• A recently held OTS training session on Office 365 for TURFA members was very helpful to those attending.
• TURFA attendance was low at the Towson/Drexel basketball game. It was suggested that the next time something like this is arranged that it be held in conjunction with a social component perhaps in the President's box at the SECU Arena.
• Forthcoming events include two lectures by Howard Cohen on The Making of Glass Art and a day trip to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey.

The Scholarship Committee is discussing three ideas - student scholarships, awards for student research and growth funds for retired faculty.

A database review of retired faculty and emeritus status located in the University's Archives will be undertaken by David Larkin.

Mary T. Casterline has been in contact with Jeff Schmidt, Director of OTS, to resolve the issue of the Office 365 contract currently prohibiting retiree access.

The Provost's Office is currently preparing a report on TURFA to present to President Schatzel. Executive Committee input is being sought.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Ron Matlon, TURFA Secretary