Towson University Retired Faculty Association (TURFA) Executive Committee Meeting

Minutes - September 2, 2015 - Administration Building 333

Attending: Don Forester, Ron Matlon, Ray Castaldi, Fran Bond, David Larkin, Florence Newman, Peg Benner, Joe Topping, Hillary Livingston. Mary Casterline

Absent: Annette Chappell

Meeting called to order by President Forester at 9:10 a.m.

Executive Committee meeting minutes of July 23 were approved as amended.

TURFA attendees met with Rick Morocco and Donna Yeagle from TU's Human Resources office.

- HR considers people "retired" when they either collect from the State pension system or from an optional retirement system such as TIAA/CREF.
- Records are kept on a person's "separation" from TU (i.e., when one begins and when one leaves). However, some people from an old database may have been lost in the record-keeping.
- HR has no contact with people after they retire from TU. Unless retirees update information about themselves as to their locations, HR has no information about location changes. Upon retirement, a person's information goes directly to the State of Maryland.
- The State of Maryland does not inform HR about address changes or deaths.
- According to HR, adjuncts who retire do so as staff, not faculty.
- HR does not keep track of those who are recognized with professor emeriti status. However, Mr. Morocco indicated that the People Soft system that they use might be updated to capture this information. Perhaps Faculty Senate minutes could be used to go back and find out what retirees were awarded this status. Perhaps separate databases should be created - one for Emeriti and one for Retirees.
- A request to fix this record-keeping ideally should come from a top-down decision-making authority at the University.

Feedback Report from Attendees at the Retired Faculty Luncheon in June 2015 (R. Matlon)

- **Types of On-Campus Events/Activities People Would Like to Attend**
  a. Sports
  b. Theatre (including a venture with Center Stage coming to TU in 2016)
  c. Music events and recitals
  d. Socials (e.g., happy hours, maybe in the Alumni House)
  e. Luncheons
  f. A guest speakers' series on current topics of interest
  g. Faculty scholarship presentations
  h. Student presentations
  i. Speeches by politicians on subjects that affect education
j. Poetry and literature readings
k. Writing groups
l. University business updates
m. Programs that build community town to gown connections
n. Campus bus and walking tours connected to the spring retired faculty luncheon
o. TURFA business meetings

- **Information Desired in TURFA's E-Newsletter**
  a. Campus events calendar
  b. News from retirees (professional and personal highlights)
  c. Obituaries
  d. Current faculty and departmental updates
  e. Current University growth updates, new programs and degrees
  f. Q&A interviews on topics of interest to TURFA members
  g. Travel opportunities
  h. Updates on how retirees can access the TU Library

- **Benefits TURFA Might Offer (other than parking)**
  a. Reduced price or free tickets to sports and cultural events (noted by nearly everyone who filled out a questionnaire)
  b. A portion of a section in the football and basketball stadiums where retirees can sit together
  c. Remote access to library journals
  d. A space reserved for small group retiree gatherings
  e. Computer class workshops
  f. A TURFA blog attached to TURFA's website
  g. Better parking access to the TU Library
  h. Information about how retirees can keep their TU e-mail addresses
  i. Planned group trips (one or two days)

Program and Events Committee Report (F. Newman)

- The TURFA Fall General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. in the Chesapeake Rooms of the University Union (third floor). The luncheon meeting will feature widely acclaimed guest speaker, Dr. Claire Van Ummersen.
- A distinguished scholar, Dr. Claire Van Ummersen served as both faculty member and administrator during her academic career, which included a position as Vice Chancellor of the University System of New Hampshire from 1986 to 1992. After leading Cleveland State University from 1993 to 2001, Dr. Van Ummersen retired as President Emerita.
- In 2001, she joined the American Council on Education, assuming leadership positions as Vice President and Director of the Office of Women in Higher Education and as Vice President for the Center for Effective Leadership.
- Travel plans are still being finalized for Dr. Van Ummersen.
- The topic for her talk will be "The Increasing Importance and Value of Emerti/Retiree Organizations."
- Chancellor Robert Caret has been invited to attend.
• Invitations for the event will be sent by the Provosts Office shortly.
• The luncheon will be free for current TURFA members and $15 for guests and potential TURFA members. Details regarding meal choice and parking will be posted on the TURFA website.
• The committee has planned additional TURFA events.
  o A training session in Office 365 is being offered to TURFA members by TU's Office of Technology Services on September 25 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
  o Special priced football tickets ($12 instead of $25) will be offered to TURFA members for the game against Delaware on October 31. Tickets can be purchased online by using a special promo code. An e-mail with additional details will soon go out to TURFA members.
  o On Sunday, November 8 at 3:00 p.m. at Stephens Hall, TURFA will host a group attendance of "Opera! Opera!" Preceding the performance, Professor Phillip Collister will briefly talk about the program. Using a TURFA membership card, admission will be at the reduced rate of ten dollars.

E-Newsletter Report (P. Benner)
• The Executive Committee was introduced to a draft of the first issue of “The Advocate,” the official e-newsletter of TURFA.
• The newsletter will soon go on TURFA’s website and will also be sent electronically to current and potential TURFA members.
• Peg was congratulated for putting together a stellar document for our review.

Report on TURFA/Osher Connections (D. Forester)
• M. Casterline, H, Livingston and D. Forester recently met with individuals from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to discuss collaboration opportunities.
• Osher facilities at 7400 York Road (with free parking) can be made available to TURFA.
• TURFA members are invited to attend free lectures at OSHER without being Osher members.
• Osher activities will be published in TURFA’s e-newsletter.

TURFA article in the AROHE Newsletter (H. Livingston)
• The article written by R. Matlon was sent to AROHE for publication.
• The article has not yet been published but, hopefully, will appear in a future issue.

Scholarship Committee Report (J. Topping)
• So far, there are no committee members appointed until the committee chair receives clarification from the Executive Committee as to what "scholarship" entails.
• Topping indicates that he is interested in the life-long learning of retirees as "scholarship." This might mean, for example, supporting TURFA members who want to go to professional
association meetings and conferences. Or, the Committee could help TURFA members get access to space to do their research.

- TURFA's memorandum of understanding with the University does not exclude this definition, but also states that TURFA will "acknowledge and celebrate the University's student achievement through ... awards and scholarships."
- However, student scholarships take a long time to establish and TURFA may not have enough resources to create scholarships. The TU Foundation requires a scholarship endowment of several thousand dollars just to get the interest to award a scholarship. Hence, scholarships might only be a long-term goal for TURFA's Scholarship Committee.
- If anything, the Scholarship Committee might consider giving modest annual awards to distinguished students.
- The Executive Committee endorses the Topping definition of scholarship above to get the committee started.

New Business

- The TURFA website
  - A disclaimer should be placed on TURFA'S website indicating that we do not necessarily endorse activities that are posted there.
  - Motion made by R. Matlon and seconded by D. Larkin - "Events that are posted on TURFA's website require approval by no fewer than three (3) Executive Committee members." Motion passes unanimously.
- TU Arts and Culture
  - H. Livingston distributed the Fall 2015 TU Arts and Culture calendar.
  - She indicated that TURFA members might be able to get discounts for some events by showing our soon-to-be-distributed identification cards. Additional information is forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Submitted by: Ronald J. Matlon, TURFA Secretary