Towson University Retired Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes from Tuesday, June 23, 2020, via WebEx.

Attending: Jim Anthony, Peg Benner, Fran Bond, Ray Castaldi, Tracy Miller, Ron Matlon, Florence Newman, Martha Siegel, Don Forester, Ellie Hofstetter, David Larkin, and Jane Wolfson

Guest: Kameron Crump, from the Provost’s Office, joined to discuss membership issues.

Absent: Annette Chappell, Pat Alt, Jim Paulsen

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by President Miller. There were no additions to the agenda

1. The minutes from May 19, 2020 were accepted as revised.

2. President’s Report (Miller)
   A. The Provost’s Brunch was held on June 12, via WebEx, and went well. Miller again thanked the Executive Committee for the support they provided to her during her year as President of TURFA.

   B. Membership recruitment and renewal is underway with over 200 recruiting emails sent out to current, recent and prospective members. Crump reports that electronic registrations and payments are coming in. Matlon proposed that because the recruitment/renewal was delayed until mid-June, that current [2019-2020] membership be informally extended until August 31. Additional membership renewal reminders will be sent out over the summer. That it is the Secretary’s responsibility to maintain the membership lists was reiterated. The Provost’s Office will send membership and payment information to Wolfson, DeLany and Castaldi as it is received. Distribution lists for any particular group of TURFA members will come from either Wolfson or DeLany.

   C. The TURFA fall lecture might or might not be face to face. Miller suggested we consider Gary Vikan, former head of the Walter’s Museum, as our speaker. He has recently published a book which could form the basis of his talk. If the event cannot be held face to face, possible ways to engage the
public with the speaker were discussed. One idea would be for us to
distribute a prerecorded talk distributed to members who then join a face to
face discussion with the speaker.

D. TURFA talks are being organized by Paulsen and his Events Committee.

E. Campus plans for fall will be shared by the Provost in her town hall meeting
later on June 23. They will also be discussed by the President and her
leadership team in the June 25 town hall meeting.

3. Treasurer’s Report (Castaldi)
   A. Membership: We added a total of 24 new members this year. Our current
      membership stands at 122 of which 30 members (~25%) are lifetime
      members. We lost 23 members over the last year; they did not renew their
      memberships.
   B. Account balance: Cash Account Balance = $1,255.18; Oral History Project
      Fund Balance = $5,823.38, Research and Scholarship Fund Balance =
      $415.00

4. New Business
   A. Emeritus Status and Faculty Rights and Privileges Task Force (Siegel) Siegel
      has been asked to chair a task force to explore issues related to clarifying
      and codifying the rights and privileges associated with Emeritus status.
      Siegel has developed a committee whose members are Peg Benner, Jim
      Dilisio, Don Forester, Tracy Miller, Dan Mydlack, TU AAUP President, Martha
      Siegel, Chair, Jay Zimmerman, Vice-Chair of Council of University System
      Faculty. Initially the group is exploring how Emeritus status is discussed in
      various documents, i.e., ART, the Faculty Handbook, USM documents, etc.
      Input from the Executive Committee is welcome.

   B. The idea that TURFA members could assist the University by serving as
      student tutors/mentors was brought up earlier this year; it was again
      mentioned by the Provost at the Provost’s Brunch. Matlon discussed the
      idea with Associate Provost Reitz and they developed a plan to develop the
      "TURFA Retiree Volunteer Service Project: Student Tutoring." The plan will
      unfold as follows: 1) In early to mid-July, the Office of the Provost will notify
      all departments that this project is being created this summer in time for
      Fall classes. 2) Reitz and Matlon will draft both a letter and a brief online
      survey to identify retirees who wish to volunteer. The letter and survey
      would be sent to all retired faculty (including, of course, TURFA members)
on or around July 15. Surveys would be returned to the Office of the Provost. 3) The Office of the Provost will compile and send returned surveys to appropriate departments. 4) Departments will then contact retirees to determine how best to arrange faculty/student match-ups.

5. Old Business
   A. WebEx and MTA benefits for TURFA members/retirees (Siegel). Siegel forwarded the email from Dunn with the agenda). The new task force will continue this work.
   B. Exploring connections to the Gerontology Program (Alt/Bond) Bond indicated this effort will begin in the fall.

6. Reports
   A. Graduate Dean Search (Larkin)-No report
   B. Oral History Project (Forester)-Forester reported that the University Archivists are presently working from home, and to date, have not been able to upload the most recent CLA videos to You Tube. The TURFA Oral History Committee continues to seek outside funding to support expansion of our coverage of selected retired faculty from the colleges that have yet to be featured.
   C. Events and Programs (Paulsen)-No report
   D. Senate (Siegel/Anthony) Siegel reported that the Senate was unlikely to meet over the summer.
   E. Legislative Issues (Alt) No report. It was noted that the court case is being heard on August 11.
   F. Research and Scholarship (Larkin) No report
   G. Nomination Committee (Bond) This committee was praised for its work this past year.
   H. FACET (Chappell) No report
   I. Online information (Benner) Benner has been working to update the SharePoint share drive so that the documents are well organized and easy to find. She plans to add a folder for Agendas and one for The Advocate. Work on the Website is being delayed because she does not have access to the site and therefore cannot directly edit it. Access will be granted once she can receive required training, but there is no training at the current time.
J. *The Advocate* (Newman) Newman will include an article on the Provost’s Retiree Brunch meeting and one on Siegel’s work on mathematics and Braille in the fall edition. The possibility of interviewing some members was discussed.

As the meeting drew to a close Matlon, the incoming President of TURFA, thanked Miller warmly for all her work over the past year.

The next meeting will be on July 21 at 1:30.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30

Respectfully submitted by Jane L. Wolfson, Secretary of TURFA