Towson University Retired Faculty Association Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes

Tuesday, September 13, 2020 via WebEx.

Attending: Jim Anthony, Pat Alt, Peg Benner, Fran Bond, Ray Castaldi, Janet DeLany, Jim Dilisio, Don Forester, Ellie Hofstetter, Tracy Miller, Ron Matlon, Florence Newman, Jim Paulsen, Precha Thavikulwat, and Jane Wolfson

Absent: David Larkin, Martha Siegel

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by President Matlon.

1 Minutes from the August 18, 2020 meeting were accepted as submitted.

2. President’s Report (Matlon)

A. TURFA Student Tutoring and Mentoring- Eighteen TURFA members volunteered to serve as student tutors. The faculty in the relevant departments or the students will contact the TURFA volunteers to arrange the tutoring services. In addition, Jane Wolfson and Jim Anthony volunteered to serve as a TURFA mentor for transfer students.

B. Meeting with the TU Foundation- The TURFA president, president elect, secretary, and treasurer met with TU Executive Vice President of the Foundation, Brian DiFillipis, to see whether we could streamline the current system for tracking TURFA membership registration and gifts as well as address concerns regarding the timely dissemination of information about TURFA financial status. The Executive Vice President will meet with his staff to explore options for improving the efficiency and accuracy of recording and transmitting the data among the Foundation, Provost and TURFA offices.

C. Community outreach proposal from Joanna Maxwell- TURFA President Matlon will invite TURFA member, Professor Joanna Maxwell, to the next Executive Committee meeting to explore her ideas about TURFA collaborating with BTU on social justice, cultural diversity, and health promotion issues within and outside of the Towson University campus.

D. Member donations = $850 for the current fiscal year.

3. Membership Report (DeLany)- As of September 13, 2020

- There are 116 members for 2020-2021
  - 8 are new members
  - 35 lifetime members
- A cashed check from one member still needs to be allocated from a Foundation account to the TURFA account; a mailed, uncashed check from a second member still needs to be located and credited to the TURFA account. Because the possible misplacement of these checks occurred during the University’s extended closure secondary to the COVID-19 pandemic, these individuals have been granted full TURFA membership for 2020-2021.
- Email requests were sent to all check paying members, except new members, to verify the accuracy of their contact information. Lifetime members were contacted in summer 2020. The contact information for new members and credit card paying members was
verified upon registration. To date, the accuracy of contact information has been verified or updated for 107 members.

4. Treasurer’s Report (Castaldi) - Account balances
   - General account fund = $4930.18
   - Oral History fund = $6,123.38
   - Research and Scholarship fund = $740

5. Reports

A. Programs and Events Committee (Paulsen)
   - The Committee reached out to the TURFA members to encourage them to volunteer to make virtual presentations.
     - For October, Tom Maronick will present on deceptive advertising and Paul Arnest will discuss how Enterprise Cloud computing is transforming technology. Each presentation will take approximately 20 minutes followed by 10 minutes for questions and answers.
     - For November, Tracy Miller and Ellie Hofsetter will create virtual videos on making holiday desserts.
     - December will feature virtual presentations of members’ gardens.
   - Enoch Pratt Library will put together a professional virtual tour that TURFA members can view.
   - Other potential TURFA programs include attendance at an art exhibit in COFAC; and virtual discussions on current BTU projects, online teaching, and managing financial portfolios during the pandemic.

B. TURFA fall lecture and TURFA talks (Miller)
   - Tracy Miller will speak with the Alumni Association regarding strategies to record the events and the quality of those visual recordings. Audio recordings for the August 25 event are not yet available for dissemination. The two following events are scheduled for September and October:
     - September 23, 2020 at 12:30 pm via Zoom- Civil Rights in Maryland, part II by Fraser Smith (author of Here Lies Jim Crow: A History of Civil Rights in Maryland) and Professor Donn Worgs from Political Science. The event is co-sponsored by TURFA, the Alumni Association, and Osher.
     - October 21, 2020- The Holy Shroud by Gary Vikan, author of The Holy Shroud and former director of the Walters Museum. The presentation will focus on the Holy Shroud around 1200 AD.
   - The potential for a monthly Get to Know You series that features virtual dialogs with TU staff, faculty, and administration regarding current University developments and issues is being explored.

C. Public Relations Committee (Miller)
   1. Annual Report (Miller)- The TURFA Public Relations committee has prepared the TURFA Annual Report, which is currently at Design and Publications for minor edits and publication. The committee developed a list for distribution of the report and other TURFA information. The report will be disseminated with a cover letter from TURFA president to the following:
• TU President Schatzel, Provost Perreault, and Executive Vice President DeFilippis by the TURFA president
• TURFA members by the TURFA secretary
• Towson University community by the Provost Office via Vice Provost Reitz

2. Online information (Benner)- The Online Information coordinator:
• Worked with Kameron Crump to upload the following information to TURFA website:
  o New link to COVID testing at TU
  o New link for direct Osher registration at TURFA discount
  o Upcoming events and moved previous events to “recent past events”
  o Addition of founding date for TURFA
  o Various changes for clarity, spelling, and spacing
• Added to SharePoint:
  o New title for “Membership” folder: “Membership Letters, Lists, and Forms
  o New subfolders in above, each filled with appropriate documents:
  o “Membership Letters” (subfolder includes presidents’ letters and sample EC emails to former members for renewal with attachment instructions for renewal))
  o “Membership Lists”
  o “Membership Forms”
• These changes empty the previous folder “Boilerplate Letters” and create more specific locations using topics rather than format for easier locating of the materials
• The OIC coordinator will contact Jackie Durbin (jdurbin@towson.edu) and Ashley Arnold (arnold@towson.edu) to address architectural challenges with TURFA website

3. The Advocate (Newman)- The fall issue is to be published in October 2020.
• The Advocate assignments due September 21, 2020 are as follows:
  o President’s letter and photo, overview of TURFA activities since May- Ron Matlon
  o Programs and Events overview article—Jim Paulsen and Janet DeLany
  o Update on Scholarship and Research Committee—Dave Larkin [submitted]
  o Update on Oral History Project (or longer article?)—Don Forester
  o Essay on photo organizing—Peg Benner [submitted]
  o Update on Nonfiction Reading Group—Jo-Ann Pilardi
• Editor’s contributions:
  o Article on Retiree Brunch
  o Article on Hobbies and Activities event
  o Notice on “Civil Rights in Maryland, Parts I and II, with link to recording-record from Part I is not yet available
  o Focus On article (interviewee Tom Maronick)
  o “What I Learned/Did During the Coronavirus” article; Don Forester submitted an article
  o In Memoriam- one person

D. Oral History Project (Forester)
As a result of COVID-19, Cook Library faculty and staff responsible for the University Archives have not had the opportunity to upload the most recent videos (CLA). Likewise, The Oral History Committee has not been able to contact the Alumni Association pertaining to the use of TURFA videos in their outreach activities. The intent is that once the University opens up and regains a semblance of normalcy, open a dialog can occur with the Alumni Relations as to how TU alumni can become aware of the eight videos that TURFA has produced already. The current plan is to annotate each video so that clips on specific topics may be more readily identified and useful to various components of the University community.

- The sound quality of video of Ray Castaldi needs to be improved
- The potential to interview Robert Caret and Elizabeth Zoltan will be investigated; Christine Tennies in OTS will be contacted regarding sound quality of using Zoom to interview them.

E. Research and Scholarship Committee (Larkin)- no report

F. Emeritus Status and Faculty Rights and Privileges Task Force (Siegel)- no report

G. Gerontology Program (Alt/Bond)- no report

H. College of Education (Bond)- Towson University College of Education faculty and alumni across Maryland have been recognized for their leadership and hard work in 2020. Dean Mullen said that the selection of so many TU graduates as teachers and principals of the year is a powerful indicator of the quality of the programs in the College of Education. In June, Baltimore County Public Schools announced the annual teacher and principal awards for 2020:

- Kelly O’Connell ’01 and ’09 was named Elementary School Principal of the Year.
- Rochelle Archelus ’07 was named Middle School Principal of the Year.
- Monica Sample ’05 was the 2019 High School Principal of the Year.
- Cheryl Brooks ‘07 was the 2018 Elementary School Teacher of the Year.
- Mary Piccirilli ’13 was named the 2020 Teacher of the Year by Prince Georges County Public Schools
- Elizabeth White ’08 and ’13 was named the 2020 Teacher of the Year by Harford County Public Schools
- Tom Evans, lecturer in the Department of Instructional Leadership and Professional Development received the 2020 Distinguish Service to Education Award from the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

I. FACET (Thavikulwat)-The FACET Advisory Board met online on September 11, 2020, chaired by Babu Baradwaj.

- Board members passed the following two amendments to its by-laws:
  - The Vice Chair of the Academic Senate shall serve on the Advisory Board as an *ex officio* member.
  - The Council of Chair members in each College shall nominate three names per open position in their college. The final choice will be made by the FACET Advisory Board to meet its goal of diversity and inclusivity across rank and gender.
Patricia Westerman, FACET Director, proposed organizing a Towson Faculty Research Conference. The idea was well received, but specifics were not discussed.

J. Graduate Dean Search (Larkin) – no report

K. Senate (Siegel/Anthony) Faculty Senate Report (Siegel/Anthony)
- The Faculty Senate addressed the following:
  - Report on Building Naming Committee
  - Report on FMLA and COVID-19-related support for people who are ill themselves; or are caretakers to those who have no daycare, childcare, or need health support due to COVID.
  - Election of Academic Senate representative to UPTRM
- The Faculty Senate discussed and passed the following motions:
  - Motion 20/21-1 To revise the By-laws of the Academic Senate Constitution to read: “Committee chairs whose terms on committees are ending should appoint at the end of the spring semester a temporary replacement whose responsibility will be to convene the first meeting of the committee at the beginning of the fall semester.”
  - Motion 20/21-2 To recommend that university leaders, including chairs and deans, adjust expectations for faculty service during the COVID – 19 pandemic.
  - Motion 20/21-3 To recommend that university leaders, including chairs, deans, and Academic Senate members actively support work-life balance at all times, and especially in response to the extenuating circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Motion 20/21-4 To recommend that Towson University create a Spanish-language version of the TU website.
  - Motion 20/21-5 To accept the Faculty Hearing Committee Annual Report
  - Motion 20/21-6 To accept the Library Advisory Committee Annual Report
- Current statistics: 23,000 students, 85% return rate (same as last two years), 49% of incoming students are students of color.
- Budget cuts are likely; however, USM and TU jobs have been preserved so far. No merit, almost surely.

L. Legislative Issues (Alt)- no report as Maryland legislature does not meet again until January 2021.

M. Drug Coverage Task Force (Wolfson, Miller, Alt) The Task Force members (a) reviewed the previous documents about and the current status of the state benefit prescription plan and the pending court ruling, and (b) consulted with a State Senator. Because no actions can be taken by the Maryland State Legislature regarding drug coverage until the court makes its ruling, the Task Force advised the TURFA Executive Committee not to engage TURFA members in this issue at this time.

N. Health benefits for surviving spouses (Wolfson)- Wolfson has contacted a person in AARP who has 20+ years of experience working with the State of Maryland and who is specializing in health benefits for AARP members. She is knowledgeable about retirement plans. This person has agreed to assist in investigating the issue of health insurance benefits of the surviving spouse of a Maryland State retiree.
6. New Business

   A. TURFA's role in counseling those contemplating retirement (Siegel) - discussion rescheduled for the Executive Committee meeting on October 20, 2020

7. Meeting adjourned - 2:50 pm.

8. Next meeting - Tuesday, October 20 - 1:30-3:30 p.m. via WebEx.