

The Heritage Committee met for two hours yesterday to finalize recommendations for February. We had a very spirited and thoughtful discussion and, after much deliberation, those in attendance unanimously agreed to the following set of recommendations listed below.

1. The event this year must be held in the Hollins Theatre. For a variety of reasons that we can discuss in more detail with you, we are absolutely opposed to having the event in the Chapel. In general, it is our belief that the event cannot be rebooted and reimagined as a reconciliatory moment without such a move. Furthermore, it is our recommendation that it should remain out of the Chapel in the future, though we recognize this is not a decision that you are in a position to make.
2. The official name of the event should be Hollins Day: Celebrating 175 Years. Our recommendation is that it should remain Hollins Day going forward and the space after the colon can reflect whatever the needs of that particular event might be. For example, next year would likely mention the inauguration of a new president. We realize that invitations have already gone out with the name Founders' Day, but recommend that there be no further official use of that name in the future.
3. It is our recommendation that Hollins Day should not involve a traditional and formal academic ceremony and procession. The seniors can certainly wear their robes and enter as one class, but it is our formal recommendation that faculty, staff, and administrators not process and not be required to wear academic robes. It is our opinion that the breaking of these formal rituals is critical to the new and reconciliatory spirit we want to encourage.
4. As a committee, we are not interested in erasing the uncomfortable and contentious moments of the past. Rather, we want to find spaces to engage with our history in open, respectful, and meaningful acts of dialogue. In that spirit, we agree that the Cocks Family should continue to be invited to the event and be a part of these moments of reconciliation going forward. We recommend that the relatives of the Hollins enslaved and long time employees be invited alongside the Cocks family to each Hollins Day.
5. Each year, the senior class should decide what to do regarding the wreath laying ceremony. If the ceremony is kept in the future, we suggest a second ceremony be added to the current one involving a wreath being placed at a chosen site to honor those whose labor was used to build this campus without their consent. However, we believe the students should be empowered to make their own decisions regarding the nature of this tradition going forward, as this event directly involves their active participation.

Suggested Schedule for
Hollins Day: Celebrating 175 Years
2017

Ideas solicited on Twitter regarding the future of Hollins at #HollinsFuture

Dance opens the event at 4:20 with movements and performance as people begin to enter the Theatre.

4:30pm Nancy speaks and introduction

4:40pm Choir music: Hollins Songs of the Past and Present

4:50-5:05pm Voices from our Past

5:05-5:20pm Comments from Dr. Jody Allen (Jon introduces). Note: Dr. Allen will be leading an extended workshop on Wednesday, 2/23 at 6pm.

5:20-5:30pm Announcements and Selected Twitter Comments