

Summary of Discussion from First Meeting

Heritage Committee

Tuesday, 4/12/16

Faculty and Staff Members in Attendance: Jon Bohland (chair), Beth Harris, Bill Krause, Peter Coogan, Maryke Barber, Ernie Zulia, Bill Krause, and Jean Fallon.

Faculty Members Who Could Not Attend: Jeffrey Bullock and Shelbie Wahl-Fouts

- I. Student members are Felicity Mampe ('17) and Whitney McWilliams ('19). The community also agreed that the students should add one more member to the archival subcommittee (see explanation below).
- II. The committee agreed that, in addition to an open and public discussion of the slave past on campus, the future work of the community should include stories and histories of race relations on the Hollins campus. This includes the Jim Crow Era, the Civil Rights Movement, Anti War Movement, and the 1970's to the present.
- III. There was agreement among the committee of the need to increase the diversity of the committee by adding additional persons of color from within the Hollins community and the Greater Roanoke Valley. This has been expressed to President Gray who has responded by taking steps towards constructing a more diverse membership. She has been speaking with a number of members of the African-American community within the Roanoke Valley about serving. They include the following individuals: Charles Price (Director of the Harrison Museum), Bill Lee (Pastor of Loudon Christian Church and committee for Duke Divinity School), Melinda Payne (City of Salem, Class of '81), and Andrea Hailey (Counselor, Class of '72). Committee members further suggested we might contact Rev. Ferguson from the Oldfields Community; Lisa Gabourel, past Director of the Children's Theatre; Rev. Cynthia Hale (Hollins alumna and trustee); and Cecilia Long (past Trustee and alumna). The committee also discussed how we should involve the community members and agreed to contact them to begin these conversations.
- IV. One of the main points of discussion involved splitting the large committee into two sub-committees where the bulk of the work will be done. We will continue to meet periodically as a collective body, while the sub-committees will meet far more regularly and develop their own agendas as well as short and long term plans/goals/projects. Maryke suggested the need for periodic "check-ins" with the rest of the Hollins community regarding the work of the group. Each subcommittee will deliver a report by the end of May focused on their preliminary plan for the next year (and beyond), budget needs, timetable of action, and membership.

The committee agreed to the following two sub-committees and their membership:

***Archival:** Charged with the task of finding and collecting stories of the history of Hollins that have largely not been told or published, with special emphasis initially on the slave history of the institution. This committee will also work to publish those stories online and on campus in order to make this information accessible for everyone.

The following individuals agreed to serve or were suggested as membership for this committee: Peter Coogan (agreed to serve as chair), Beth Harris, Bill Krause, Student Member at Large (tbd). Peter has subsequently also invited Jean Holzinger to serve on this committee as well. Community members who should be invited to serve for this committee include Charles Price, Rev. Ferguson, Rev. Bill Lee, Rev. Cynthia Hale, and Cecelia Long.

Discussions and ideas brought up at the meeting relevant to the work of the Archival committee included:

- Utilization of the new national slave burial database
- Making the work available online through the digital commons
- Publishing findings as part of a book project
- Collecting stories and artefacts for public display
- Building upon the published work of Ethel Smith and Jennifer Bridges Oast
- Possibility of permanent exhibit at Harrison Museum

***Commemoration and Memorialization:** Charged with discussing and eventually implementing plans for Hollins monuments, Founder's Day reinvention and activities/performances, and Speaker series connected to the work being done that term by the archival group.

Discussions and ideas brought up at the meeting relevant to the work of the Archival committee included:

- Monument to be built on campus
- Founder's Day to become Founders Day. How might this event be reimagined going forward?
[Much of the work of this committee will focus on the 2017 event]
- Speakers Series to include Ethel Smith and Jennifer Oast during the first year; possible big name speaker such as Bell Hooks as part of the first year

The following individuals agreed to serve or were suggested as membership for this committee: Jon Bohland, Whitney McWilliams, Felicity Mampe, Ernie Zulia, Maryke Barber, Shelbie Wahl-Fouts, and

Jeffrey Bullock. Following the meeting, Nancy suggested Jeri Suarez be included in these conversations as well. Community members to be invited to serve for this committee include Melinda Payne, Andrea Hale, and Lisa Gabourel.

- V. The two subcommittees will reconvene before the end of April and once in May before issuing their preliminary reports to President Gray and the rest of the Hollins Community.