

Heritage Committee (full meeting), October 4, 2016

Present: Jean Holzinger, Ernie Zulia, Sheyonn Baker, Maryke Barber, Brittany Flowers, Jon Bohland, Jean Fallon, Beth Harris, Felicity Mampe, Jerri Suarez, Jeffery Bullock, Shelby Wahl-Foutz

Absent: Bill Krause

- Jon noted that we have been approached to get more student representation on the committee, especially for Founder's Day ideas. Jon asked if everyone would put out the word that we want more students.
- Jon reported that his meeting with President Gray went well and that she and Trish are open to hiring a historian. This person would teach early American history part-time and do archival research part-time. This meets both the need for another history faculty member as well as the need for a trained historian who can provide us with the information the committee needs to move forward on several areas. Jon will keep us updated on this.
- There is now an official email for the committee: hhc@hollins.edu. Jon has the password to it and will check it on a regular basis.
- Jeri has arranged for one of her students to place Founders' Day suggestion boxes around campus and posted a flier about it on campus announcements that can be printed out and posted. If anyone wants an additional box to place in their building, please contact Jeri. SGA Round Table (includes class presidents, SGA, etc.) plans to review the ideas submitted via the boxes at the end of October. Jeri also noted that her student assistant missed the plural possessive and its meaning on the boxes she distributed. This might be an indication that the holiday should be renamed.
- Felicity Mampe stated that there was a need to establish a forum for student input and that we really need "buy-in" from the student body.
- Jon, Jeffery, and Beth discussed the Universities Studying Slavery conference that met at William & Mary September 29-October 1st. All found it to be energizing and inspirational. Many ideas that our committee has already discussed were among the topics of discussion at the conference. Jon passed around pamphlets about W & M's The Lemon Project and historical walking brochure that highlighted African Americans and Georgetown University's Report of the Working Group on Slavery, Memory, and Reconciliation. Jeffery noted that the attendees seemed to be very engaged with their campus history and showed true concern for diversity on their campus. There was a panel discussion of four institutions: Clemson University, Washington & Lee University, the University of Mississippi, and Georgetown University. At all four universities, the push for research came from the students. One institution noted that they took a three-pronged approach: research, building a bridge, and making students of color feel truly welcomed at their campus. In many cases, the panel participants noted that they sometimes met with resistance from their administrations, boards, and/or alumni. In addition, one panel participant stated that even small actions are great actions. Beth liked the fact that universities that were founded post-emancipation, like Clemson, participated in the conference. Clemson recognized that their campus is sitting on a former plantation and that

one building from that time period was being used by the University. In addition, a large donor (or its founder?) owned slaves. Jeffery also noted that histories are complicated but a history could be discussed/written in a manner that is affirming for all. Finally, ongoing research, event planning, and discussions should be institutionalized at each university rather than a short term project. The work can be incorporated into the curriculum, yearly events planned, new traditions enhanced or developed, and publications written.

- At the end of the meeting, Jon asked for each sub-committee to set goals/time lines for accomplishing set tasks (i.e. deciding on where the memorial should be and what it should be, launching the website, etc.). Brittany Flowers was asked to write a short paragraph (100 words) for Jean Holzinger on “Rocky Branch,” one of the paths slaves and servants took each day to reach the Hollins campus. Jean hopes to include something about “Rocky Branch” in the walking tour brochure public relations is revising.