

Notes from Heritage Committee Open Conversation, Thursday Dec. 1, 2016

Mission language – “slow and sustained” was questioned as sounding too much like stalling. We talked about the committee’s intentions and what legitimate issues might slow us down: making sure we do due diligence on research before making big decisions, having an open process for the community to give input, considering the ramifications of decisions as they impact different groups, etc. The consensus was that a word such as thorough, thoughtful or intentional would be a good substitute for slow.

Membership: Makiyah McArthur would like to join our committee. We hope she can join us on Tuesday, or the next time we’ll meet.

Memorial location – there was support for both the library oval and Moody Plaza.

Founders Day name change – strongly supported by all in attendance. Hollins Day sounded good to them, so did Hollins History Day. As regards any concerns about alumni disliking a name change, students think that if they’re expected to attend an event it should be their concerns about the event that are addressed first. If it would help convince the administration to hear from the students, perhaps we could ask BSA for a statement of support?

Dining Hall Staff – to move toward reconciliation, Hollins needs to include members of the dining hall staff, some of whom may be from the same families who have served Hollins in the past. They do not receive benefits. [Note: this information turned out to be in error. See below for further information.] What should Hollins do for them? Scholarships? Educational benefits? IDs providing access to services such as the library, athletic facilities, etc.? Should they be invited to be on the committee?

Community Service – before planning services, it was suggested that we meet with people from the Hollins Community to ask them what is needed at the church, in the cemetery, or elsewhere. Jeri suggested a meeting with Reverend Saunders and parishioners. Ideas considered: tutoring, arts classes/workshops, dance clinics (Paris Williams is abroad in the spring, but would be interested in working on this in the fall).

-Maryke Barber

Re “Dining Hall Staff”, the following information was shared with the committee by Kerry Edmonds, Hollins VP of Finance and Administration: When the food service was outsourced in 2003, Hollins required that whoever got the contract would have to give preference to hiring our former employees and give them the same benefits they had while they were working for Hollins. Although the food service contractor has changed a few times since then, Hollins always has had that requirement. There may have been slight variations in the coverages because they were different companies but benefits were provided and continue to be provided to the employees.

Here are some more specifics about the current situation: MG’s full-time employees, similar to Hollins employees, have access to a full array of benefits including health, dental, vision, life insurance, short-term disability insurance, PTO (paid time off), and 401(k) plan (retirement). In addition MG is an ESOP company (Employee Stock Ownership Plan), which is available to all eligible full-time and part-time employees at no cost to the employees. Over time, participants accumulate value in their ESOP accounts to be used in retirement.

MG also spells out employee benefits on their website: <http://merig.com/why-mg/>