

## Hollins Heritage Committee

### Full Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 31, 2017

Present: Jon Bohland, Beth Harris, Jenine Culligan, Jeffrey Bullock, Nick Miller, Shelbie Wahl-Fouts, Bill Krause, Maryke Barber, Kathleen Nolan, Delana Price, Idella Glenn.

From Jon B:

The committee will focus on several projects this year, organizing itself into two subcommittees.

- **Monument.** Chaired by Idella, has been charged by the administration to develop a plan for dedicating a memorial or monument on campus to the Hollins enslaved. The committee is examining how that process has taken shape at other institutions. The plan is to issue a report of our findings in a year or so and make recommendations to the administration on how best to proceed.
- **Archaeology Project and Field School & Universities Studying Slavery Conference.** Chaired by Jon, will be working on: a new field school and archaeology project led by Dr. Leann Pace and Eudora Struble from Wake Forest University, both with extensive field work experience. This fall they have already begun using archival information and maps to locate possible sites on and near campus where formerly enslaved African Americans may have lived post emancipation. Working with Beth Harris, four sites were identified on the periphery of campus. With help from Virginia Tech graduate students and professors, Ground Penetrating Radar technology to examine the areas non-invasively. We hope to locate a possible and likely site for a field school dig with students (2 credits) to be held during the last week of March. Students interested in that course will take a January Term class as well focused on archaeology, African American history and memory at Hollins. They will not be digging up graves—any location of human remains requires a halting of digging and alerting the state before proceeding.
- Second project is the USS Conference from April 12-14 to be held on our campus. 30 plus institutions from mostly the South, but now also from Canada and the UK focused on issues of African American memory and institutional histories. Committee members made several suggestions related to sharing lessons learned from our unique experience as a small liberal arts institution, such as providing tips to school that don't have active archives.

#### **Budgets, Funding, Communications:**

- Jon and Idella worked on several grant proposals over the summer. The goal is to fund the work of the Monument subcommittee, who should be able to travel to other institutions to discuss their process; they are also seeking a grant and asking the administration to fund the work already being done by Brittney Flowers, who is

researching Hollins' history and connections with residents of the nearby Hollins Community.

- We are also hoping an alum may be found who is specifically interested in aiding the committee's work.
- Nick suggested that events sponsored by the committee be leveraged to encourage funding.
- Jon asked for volunteers to describe the committee's work in upcoming Division meetings, and at FEC.
- Beth suggested an article in the *Roanoke Times*; Jeri suggested featuring Brittney's work in the upcoming issue of the alumni magazine.
- Maryke asked that minutes continue to be taken at all meetings, to be posted on the website.
- Jon suggested shifting the focus from requests that the committee post a "story" about what we are learning, to posting related documents and materials. It is more appropriate to the committee's mission to make our findings available and accessible, while not trying to "craft" them into a specific meaning. Beth mentioned the historical narrative requested by the committee last year has not been completed. Maryke offered to post any available and approved materials.

### **Other Business**

- Jenine and Beth suggested that any objects found should eventually be made accessible on display, and also cataloged. Shared Shelf or another of our databases could be used for this purpose; to be investigated further once we have an idea of the nature of the materials. Another good possibility for making historical materials available to a broader public is the Harrison Museum.
- Kathleen noted that the process of raising a memorial at UVA was informed by an archeological process on the university's campus; hopefully the same connection could be made here.
- The Hollins Day video could be shown at the USS Conference – in an edited version – if we obtain permission from those appearing in the video.
- Bill suggested that the USS Conference at Hollins be marketed specifically to the many small southern institutions who have not yet joined the consortium.
- Idella asked for clarification for discussions with the administration about the name and direction of the program formerly known as Founder's Day. Members confirmed our strong recommendation to removing the name "Founder's Day," as well as the too-slight change to "Founders' Day." It is our hope that the celebration organized by the committee in Feb. 2017 provides the administration with an opportunity to redirect this day toward a more inclusive celebration of the history of Hollins.
- Kathleen suggested the committee might benefit from being associated with an academic department, or with the library. Tabled for discussion at upcoming meetings.
- Several members hope to attend the Fall conference of Universities Studying Slavery at UVA in October.