

Hollins Working Group, formerly known as the Heritage Committee

Minutes for May 18, 2018

Present: Robin Lee, Jeri Suarez, Bill Krause, Jenine Culligan, Idella Glenn, Job Bohland, Kathleen Nolan, Beth Harris, Maryke Barber.

Congratulations on hosting a successful USS conference. The next one is October 2018 at Tougaloo College; let Jon or Idella know if you are interested in going.

Committee goals/topics for our third year:

Membership: let Jon or Idella know if you wish to depart. The workload this year will be different; instead of intense event planning, Jon hopes to focus our work on a few specific projects.

Research: Beth will be working with Students Studying Slavery (SSS) members on setting goals for doing research and transcription. She also notes it would be great, if a tenure track historian is hired, that person's work could include involvement with the committee. (possibly as part of service requirements, as faculty can now request service points for being part of our working group.)

Making research visible: a walking tour app turns out to be financially possible, and work on this could make a good student project. For examples, see Furman and the University of Richmond.

Jon and Idella are meeting with library staff on Thursday to discuss options for a kiosk. Maryke noted that the library's Digital Commons is a good place for permanent preservation and organization of any historical materials we can digitize; the Commons is discoverable via Google and other search engines, and you can link to materials in the Commons from other web spaces (such as an app, or our own website).

Bill K. noted he would like to find out who owns the cemetery on Plantation Rd. Restoration would be a service opportunity; Pria noted it might be a goal for Clem Bolden Day.

Brittney Flowers's contract as a fellow is about to end; Jon will contact her about writing up her findings for the committee and the University Archives.

Courses: Jon is trying to find out whether we can do more archaeology next year. Students' reaction to the experience was overwhelmingly positive, and media attention was very good. The archaeologists who worked on this year's digs will be cataloging the findings. The J-Term course was envisioned as an every-other-year opportunity; what other educational offerings can we consider?

Follow-up to archaeology: is there any work that could/should be done when the faculty row houses are demolished, or when the apartments across Williamson come down? Jon will talk to the folks at Tech about scanning possibilities.

Memorialization: Idella will work on summarizing the work done so far. Students have also been asking about renaming the Tayloe Gym; more research could be done on the Tayloe family legacy so we can present a full picture and reason for requesting the name change.

Naming is always attached to large gifts to the university - could there be a fundraising campaign to see some names suggested by the committee on spaces around campus?

Apology: Maryke suggested President Gray's remarks in 2017 were not recorded in a way that is now evident or available. The university needs to issue a full statement of apology (rather than just regret); it needs to be both evident (published) and available (online). Could we explain to President Lawrence how having an official apology on the books would help both the working group and the university at large, and then see what she'd suggest about how we get there? Maryke will do research on similar efforts at other universities.

Hollins Day: the administration has asked for the committee's suggestions for this event going forward. We re-read our suggestions made in 2016, and affirmed their contents. Additional suggestions: maybe not have it every year? Ask for proposals from the campus community? Develop a committee of people interested in managing this event? Idella will draft a new version to submit to admin.

Other: Idella is meeting with Admissions about inclusion of historical material in their tours.