

Hollins Working Group on Slavery and Its Contemporary Legacies

Minutes for September 20, 2018

Present: Jon Bohland, Karen Callaway, Amy Duncan, Jenine Culligan, Idella Glenn, Pria Jackson, Bill Krause, Rebecca Rosen.

After last year's two successful events – Hollins Day and the USS Conference - Jon suggested we spend our time this year prioritizing projects, rather than events. One main goal should be to produce deliverable materials (digital, other?). The question most often asked of the committee is “what have you found/done?” and that can best be answered by providing these.

Projects Under Discussion:

- **Walking Tour App:** This is an affordable project which we can start to populate and then develop further as more research becomes available. Collaboration with Admissions.
- **Kiosk/Digital Repository at the Library:** Jon, Idella and the library staff will spend this year developing a grant application. Jon will discuss access to Brittney Flowers' research with her.
- **Archaeology:** Jon would like to repeat the archaeology project, which was very popular with students. Money is needed to pay the archaeologists. Suggestions included student fees, crowdfunding, and grants.
- **Monument:** the committee needs to make a recommendation to the administration, whether to pursue a formal monument, or not. Idella is working on this.
- **Apology:** Maryke suggested working with the administration to have the university officially apologize for slavery. There is research suggesting that a verbal apology matters as long as it is complete and forward-looking, acknowledging the hurt caused and making a commitment to reparation. The broad category of reparations includes many actions taken to uncover and acknowledge past wrongs, including memorializing those who were harmed. Suggestions made include:
 - Talking to the descendants in the Hollins community about what an apology would mean to them. Several opinions emerged as to whether an apology should be a personal and private event, offered only as a conversation with the descendants; or whether it can include a larger conversation with the public. If the latter makes it just a PR event, that is not what we'd want; but could we have a public event so the institution is making the apology as a public commitment? As we proceed, we need to keep asking ourselves the question: “What are we doing, and who are we doing it for?”
 - Making any commitment to future action open-ended, to account for changes as new knowledge is uncovered.
 - For the next meeting, we should propose a path for moving forward with the apology. Idella will ask Pareena for her thoughts on this.
- **Renaming buildings:**
 - Beth Harris has made the suggestion to Development that this is an excellent opportunity for naming any new building.

- **Tayloe gym** – Our working group will support efforts underway by Students Studying Slavery. Suggestions made: get faculty support, talk to SGA.
- **Renaming a building on Front Quad?** East would be an excellent opportunity. Student involvement would help make the case for this.
- **With regard to the argument that naming a building costs money** because it is a fund-raising opportunity: we should use archival materials chronicling the labor on campus to make the point that that debt has already been paid!
- Researching and restoring the lot that is the former location for **Greenridge Church and Cemetery**, currently next to the HoneyTree child care center. Bill Krause would like to work on this; it was suggested that this could be part of the Day of Service (see below.)

Other business:

The Tougaloo conference for Universities Studying Slavery is October 24-26. We hope to send someone there; talk to Jon or Idella if you are interested.

The event formerly known as Founders' Day has officially be renamed to Hollins Day, per this committee's recommendation. This year's HD will be a Day of Service.