

Hollins Working Group on Slavery and Its Contemporary Legacies

Minutes for December 4, 2018

Present: Jon Bohland, Idella Glenn, Maria Jdid, Jenine Culligan, Karen Callaway, Courtney Chenette, Jeri Suarez, Maryke Barber.

Action items:

- Idella will discuss our apology proposal with President Lawrence. (Dec. 14)
- If you have suggestions for students who might want to join the Working Group, contact Jon.
- Brittney's research presentation is February 25, 5:30 p.m. in Goodwin PDR. We will also present a brief update (10 min.?) from the committee, followed by Q&A.

Apology – the group reviewed the latest version of the apology proposal, adding suggestions for potential commitments by the university administration, including student suggestions from the '18 J-Term course. Idella will discuss the proposal with President Lawrence at their next meeting, Dec. 14.

Research – update from Rebecca Rosen: “I reached out to the UVA archives about a letter of potential interest. While it may not turn out to relate to the Cocke family of Hollins, I'll continue to correspond with them and try meet them over break to determine what other archival resources in the state would be useful. “

Courtney shared suggestions developed in collaboration with Rebecca and Brittney Flowers: to help contextualize the Group's work for the Board and other stakeholders and to begin making research available to the public, we'd develop a brief timeline combining Hollins history with national history.

She suggested that our group use research presentation as a foundation for building trust with the Board, which will allow us to then discuss potentially more complex issues such as renaming buildings.

Courtney is also working on court cases which may be used to identify groups of enslaved people as they were moved onto campus from other states.

Jenine and Idella suggested quantifying how many people we are talking about when we say “enslaved people,” to make it clear that both the group's size and each individual need to be considered. In addition, having a specific number would allow us to further specify the extent and value of people's labor.

Mobile App – Jon reported that his J-term class will help him work on this project, by taking pictures of locations and working on mapping. It was suggested that we might ask permission to include some of Ethel Morgan Smith's work.

Jon mentioned Pria is graduating in December; anyone who has suggestions for new student members should contact him.

Maryke asked if the group wanted to schedule any conversations with the campus before April (proposed apology event). It was suggested, and Jeri agreed, that we can combine this with Brittney's research presentation (February 25, 5:30 p.m. in Goodwin PDR).