

Hollins Working Group on Slavery and Its Contemporary Legacies

Minutes for February 15, 2019

Present: Jon Bohland, Idella Glenn, Maria Jdid, Jenine Culligan, Karen Callaway, Courtney Chenette, Amy Dixon, Rebecca Rosen, Bill Krause, Maryke Barber.

Action items:

- IMLS Grant Proposal – see Idella’s Google Doc
- Checking in the Archives for blackface incidents at Hollins: contact Beth Harris if you’d like to help.
- 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. Idella will also present a brief update from the working group, followed by Q&A.

Grant Proposals – update from Idella & Jon. Idella had a conversation with the grant writer for Hollins about a grant issued by the Institute for Museum & Library Services (IMLS). The area of the grant is community memory. Conversations have made it clear what we primarily need is a research associate with training and experience (e.g. post-doc level). This grant might be appropriate, we will also investigate DuPont grant possibilities. Discussion included suggestions to create student research opportunities to assist this position, as well as a workshop for this hire to work with Rebecca R., Courtney C., Beth H. and others to set up a system to capture and organize information. The work done on creating this job description will be helpful for future grant proposals as well.

Idella will work on the grant (due Feb. 25); everyone please contribute to the Google doc. Per Jon, everyone also please keep an eye out for any other grant opportunities supporting community research.

USS Conference – The next USS gathering is March 14-15 in Williamsburg. There is no registration fee. Please contact Idella if you are interested in going (several of us are).

Blackface incidents at Hollins – Luke Vilelle (University Librarian) contacted Jon to ask whether the group is interested in information about blackface at Hollins. Current political events suggest this might come up; what do we want to do to be proactive? The library has already looked at yearbooks up to 1989 (incidents were recorded in 1962 and 1989); Beth mentioned help is welcome in looking at sources such as students newspapers, and yearbooks from 1989 – today. Discussion included how/why this information would be used: facing our history, teaching tool, etc. Courtney cautioned the need to consider whose information is involved, and how this is handled. People’s employment may be at stake and conversations should be handled confidentially.

Land on Plantation Road, Green Ridge Church – Bill K. contacted the Acting Director of Planning for Roanoke County to discuss the property, which once may have housed Green Ridge Church and may still be the location of the church’s cemetery: possibilities for cleanup, commemoration, etc. Karen C. will check to see whether her church’s history includes information about Green Ridge.

Research – Courtney C. supervised student research during J-Term on court cases involving names of enslaved people connected to Hollins. One case was found, and they are currently looking for additional information. The student is also working on a timeline placing Hollins history alongside U.S. history and Civil Rights landmarks.

Apology – the apology proposal is currently on hold; the President suggested working on this after the board’s current work on revising the transgender policy. Our group is hoping for an opportunity to update the board on our work at their May meeting, which would also be the time to mention the apology as a preview for submitting a complete proposal in the Fall of 2019.