

Hollins Working Group on Slavery and Its Contemporary Legacies

Minutes for Meeting Oct. 2, 2019

Present: Idella Glenn, Rebecca Rosen, Maryke Barber, Bill Krause, Jon Bohland, Jenine Culligan, Jasmine Carter, Makda Kalayu, Jaiya McMillan.

Action Items:

- **Cemetery project:** Bill will ask Roanoke County for a cost estimate of their plan; next steps include exploring a partnership with Ebenezer and First Baptist.
- **Apology:**
 - Listening sessions with the campus community need to be scheduled.
 - We need to get on the calendar for meetings with cabinet, FEC, and SGA.
- **Short Term Class:** please send all ideas for projects to Jon.

Idella and Rebecca's meeting with President Gray: President Gray gave feedback on the group's to-do list.

- Cemetery Project: President Gray would like to know the cost of the plan proposed by the County. Bill will request this information. Hollins is interested in contributing resources (in-kind and labor) when it comes to maintenance of the site, in a possible partnership with the churches; funding from Hollins is unlikely at this time.
- Apology: President Gray suggests meetings with Cabinet, the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) and Student Government Association (SGA) in early December. Following these, cabinet can introduce the Board of Trustees to a more detailed plan in February/May. We should also schedule listening sessions with the campus community. Bill asked whether faculty might present the apology as a discussion item at Division meetings.
- Renaming Buildings: Tayloe Gym apparently was not named on the occasion of a gift. This would make a proposal to rename the building easier, so we need to verify this. President Gray asked about the possibility of naming Faculty Road after Clem Bolden.
- Governance of the Committee: President Gray suggests we consider the University governance structure. Our current place has us depending on presidential funding for the Office of Diversity & Inclusivity. Discussion included questions about the VPAA's office; where this work is located at other schools; and an overall sense that our group prefers members who *want* to serve, rather than being part of a faculty committee structure which depends on who *needs* to serve.

Cemetery Project Update: the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church has told Idella that their church has the deed to the Green Ridge Church cemetery parcel. Since Roanoke County is not aware of this, the next step is to make sure that the deed is registered with the County.

Short Term 2020 Class: Jon asked for suggestions for projects for this class, related to the group's work. Possibilities include the cemetery project, researching names related to buildings on campus; Idella also suggested a Clem Bolden Day of Service.

Renaming Buildings: see above; group members also asked about Carvin, and Front Quad.

Public Art Funds: funds given by donors (including the Cocke Family) are still available for (and usable only for) a public art piece. Currently at \$6,000, such a project might require raising additional funds. Concerns were raised about having this take the place of other ongoing projects and funding needs; Jenine suggested having known names of enslaved people sandblasted into the library's windows.

Lunch with the Hollins Community/First Baptist Church Hollins – Idella would like to schedule another lunch in the Spring, and include Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Changing the Narrative – Changing the Narrative is one of a series of events organized by “Points of Diversity,” a Roanoke group focused on community dialogue. Presentations focused on the history of diversity in the Roanoke Valley are followed by facilitated conversations over dinner. Several members of the group are joining Idella in a presentation on the history of Hollins; if you wish to attend, rsvp to Idella.

Exhibit – Jenine announced that an exhibit will take place in one of the Museum's galleries, April 9-226, 2020. Ashleigh is interested in having her class participate.

Field Trip to Sweet Briar Cabin – Sweet Briar has preserved the only remaining remnant of the enslaved community on their campus (<https://sbc.edu/museum/slave-cabin/>). People are interested in a field trip to see the cabin and potentially hear about connections with Sweet Briar's archives.