

Hollins Working Group on Slavery and Its Contemporary Legacies

Minutes for Meeting Feb. 6, 2020

Present: Idella Glenn, Rebecca Rosen, Jenine Culligan, Jayia McMillan, Makda Kalayu, Donovan O'Daniel, Bill Krause, Jasmine Carter, Maryke Barber, Chris Florio.

Upcoming Meetings: are scheduled for the first Tuesday of every month.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Mar. 3, at noon.

Action Items:

- **Subcommittees:** if you want to get involved with one of these, let them know.
- **CIC Grant:** let Idella know if you can help with developing this grant application.

Next USS Meeting – UVA will host the Spring Business meeting of Universities Studying Slavery on March 5-6 in Charlottesville. There is no registration fee; Hollins may be able to support up to 4 people (shared rooms.) Email Idella about coordinating transportation and hotel rooms.

Institutional Apology Draft – Chris and Rebecca will be working on finding primary sources to verify statements in the draft. Rebecca introduced the model of apologies which along with enslavement include apology for the mistreatment (post-emancipation) of African Americans. One example is [William & Mary](#). This type of text might be easier to verify using recent oral history.

Scholarship for descendants of the Hollins Community (also known as Oldfields) – At our group's request, Admissions and Financial Aid have worked on reviving this scholarship. It apparently was created years ago but had not been included in scholarships advertised or otherwise offered. An application is now available on the [Scholarships & Awards](#) page. (search CTRL-f for "descendants")

We brainstormed ideas for getting the word out:

- Talk to the pastor/congregation at Hollins First Baptist (and anyone else with whom we have contact in the community)
- Talk to the guidance counselors at nearby high schools (Northside, Botetourt)
- Talk to Financial Aid, Admissions and Marketing about putting out a press release, so the info goes out more broadly (eligibility may extend beyond just local)
- Talk to Meriwether Godsey about letting their employees know?
- Talk to Victoria re: Horizon program
- Talk to local community colleges

Re press release: while "press release" may suggest promoting Hollins, its goal is to use channels such as the newspaper to get the word out beyond this area because descendants could live outside of Roanoke. Our first step should be to talk to the Hollins Community.

Subcommittee for Publicizing the Group – President Gray suggested we create opportunities for the campus community to learn more about our work, which means advertising our current projects,

events, etc. Possibilities include public dialogue, flyers, social media, etc. Jasmine, Makda, Idella and Maryke will meet to work on strategies; everyone in the group should share information they think is worthy of sending out around campus

Subcommittee for Digitization Projects – this new group includes Beth Harris, Jeanne Jegousso and Donovan; more members are welcome, especially students who would like experience with digital projects.

Cemetery Project – Ongoing; Bill and Courtney will be going to the courthouse in Roanoke County, to formally establish the ownership of the property by Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Upcoming Events –

- Currently at the Museum: Black artists' work from the museum's permanent collection.
- Tuesday, Feb. 18: meeting with President Gray and Cabinet about the group's projects, in particular the apology draft.
- Wednesday, Feb. 19, noon: Presentation for Black History month : "Changing the Narrative" – Hollins History.
- Wednesday, Feb. 19, 3 pm: Webinar about **CIC grant** to establish "regional centers for collaboration" – Idella thinks this may be a match for our needs. If you are interested in helping with the application, let her know.
- Thursday, February 27, 5 pm: Jeremy Alexander, member of the Georgetown University 272 Descendants group. Room 119, Richard Wetherill Visual Arts Center.
- April 9: Opening of exhibit created by Ashleigh Breske's students, in collaboration with Jenine Culligan.