

Hollins Working Group on Slavery and Its Contemporary Legacies

Minutes for Meeting, August 13, 2020

Present: Rebecca Rosen, Jenine Culligan, Bill Krause, Jasmine Carter, Ashleigh Breske, Courtney Chenette, China Moore, Heather Derrick, Maryke Barber.

Next Meeting: TBA

Action Items:

- Please review Rebecca's edits to the draft timelines we are submitting to President Hinton; send comments and suggestion to all by email.
- Maryke to share links to examples of renaming proposals from other universities; see below for an opportunity to help!
- Maryke and Ashleigh to start list of building status/name information on campus.
- Courtney and Bill to work with Ebenezer Baptist Church to determine the best way to communicate with church leaders and congregation about the cemetery project.

Draft Timelines: Renaming and Apology

Renaming

- The group added suggestions for potential renaming sites (buildings, roads, Front Quad), see text.
- The process will include discussion with the Development dept. about the availability of buildings and other spaces; it also includes a conversation about grounding the reasons for removing and adding names in the University's mission. This can take time but we are hopeful that with demand, Presidential support and general momentum, this is something we can do.
- Several points were made about providing information about the process and context to students before expecting them to contribute in listening sessions, to enable a more focused and productive conversation. Video would be a good format for this, followed by email and social media.
- Afterward, we should make sure to update the campus community re: results and next steps.
- Maryke has examples of renaming process documents from other universities. Someone could start working on a way to summarize these into a brief explanation of process & context for Fall discussions with the campus: any volunteers?
- A request that Working Group members not share the names we are using as examples of potential new names, before these have been considered by a formal renaming committee. Thank you.

Apology

- The suggestion was made to expand the name of the apology to better reflect its function as a promise/plan; potential terms include vision, commitment.
- A discussion about whether both proposals can/should be completed in one year; probably not. Rebecca noted that since the apology requires hiring a researcher, this process may be delayed in any case. It may also be very helpful to have the concrete example of a successful renaming campaign, to then start a deeper conversation with the campus about the more complex and long-ranging projects suggested in the apology.

Updates on ongoing projects:

- Cemetery project: Bill & Courtney reported they are having conversations with members of Ebenezer Baptist Church; before proceeding with any work on the land, the land must first be properly titled to the church