

Hollins Working Group on Slavery and Its Contemporary Legacies

Minutes for Meeting, September 30, 2020

Present: China Moore, Jasmine Carter, Ashleigh Breske, Courtney Chenette, Heather Derrick, Maryke Barber, Rebecca Rosen, Jenine Culligan, Bill Krause, Jeri Suarez, Chris Florio, Jeanne Jegouso.

Next Meeting: October 9, 3 p.m. – meeting with President Hinton.

Action Items:

- The co-chairs will turn in the proposal for presenting on EDJ day; all interested parties will get together to adapt and update last year's "Changing the Narrative" presentation.
- The co-chairs will check in with President Hinton about whether specific listening sessions about renaming buildings could be a program for EDJ day. (See below for more about all of the moving pieces related to renaming.)
- Maryke will re-send information about renaming proposals and processes at other universities.
- New members:
 - Rebecca will check with Laura Hawley about policy/best practices related to ad hoc committee membership of staff/faculty (see below)
 - All interested students will be invited to attend the group's next meeting.

Meeting with President Hinton to review proposed draft timelines for renaming and apology

- Is there a Hollins policy for renaming buildings? There is not; only information from Development about how to pay to rename certain buildings, which is a different process. A policy would have to be created, to provide a clear roadmap for such actions in the future. The creation of the policy will likely require the involvement of other campus offices/groups; this issue should be added to our list of items to discuss with President Hinton.
- Are we suggesting the process start with considering Tayloe Gym as the first building to be renamed? Yes.
- Are we suggesting specific names for renamed buildings? We have some ideas; however, this led to a discussion of how this process on other university campuses has been structured to involve as many people in the community as possible. Rather than submitting suggested names from our group, we'd be very interested in facilitating such a process at Hollins.
- Position proposals for hiring researcher(s) to verify apology claims and support future work. We have examples and ideas but have not yet drafted proposals; we should ask President Hinton when/where this would be most desirable as we look at the two timelines.
- Communications about renaming:
 - Do we have a plan for proactive communication, to head off potential negative backlash or pushback from external sources? We will include this in communication plans; one of the questions to discuss with President Hinton is when and how we begin communication.

- Communications should include action items for interested people, such as a schedule of upcoming listening sessions.
- We should discuss with President Hinton whose names/endorsements/etc. are going to be on which announcements about renaming, listening sessions, etc. We'd want to look at timing, ensure support, and ultimately work with as broad and strong a coalition as possible.

Equity and Justice Day Proposal(s)

A draft proposal was sent to all before the meeting. A student has contacted the group with a proposal that is very similar; Rebecca will contact the student and ask whether they'd like to join and present as part of the group.

Volunteers: possible presenters China Moore, Bill Krause ; graphics & behind the scenes, Heather Derrick.

Increasing Membership and Info Sessions for Staff and Faculty

Since the Spring we have received requests to join the group: 7 students, 4 staff members, and 3 faculty.

The co-chairs suggest since student membership is currently lowest that we automatically invite all interested students to join, while staff and faculty are invited to occasional information sessions where we outline ongoing projects and ask for people to join if they specifically want to work on those projects.

The question was asked whether there is any campus policy or best practice for ad hoc committees such as ours: how do people join these other groups? It was agreed to invite the students to the next meeting, and wait on an answer about existing policy with regard to staff/faculty. We could provide people with a bulleted list of current projects, so group members spearheading those projects can speak with them should they be interested.

USS Conference

USS has delayed in-person gatherings to 2022. This October they are offering webinar presentations.

Updates on ongoing projects:

- Cemetery project is ongoing; at this time, Covid-19 is delaying all court actions and interactions with Roanoke County.
- Ashleigh Breske is working on a spreadsheet of information about campus buildings.
- Heather Derrick is working on a communications plan for re-naming listening sessions and the following process.