

## **Hollins Working Group on Slavery and Its Contemporary Legacies**

Minutes for Meeting Apr. 20, 2021

**Present:** Rebecca Rosen, Maryke Barber, Jeri Suarez, Jenine Culligan, Syreeta Combs-Cannaday, Courtney Chenette, Bill Krause

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

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, May 4, at noon.

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**Action Items:** let Rebecca Rosen know if you are interested in serving on the renaming task force. (see below).

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### **Follow-up on Division meetings and conversation with BSA**

- Faculty were briefed about renaming at all four division meetings; they were asked for feedback and the link to website and survey were also shared.
- The meetings resulted in less conversation than was hoped, but faculty overall responded positively; they are generally supportive of students' wishes on this topic and want to know next steps. Some asked questions; three professors have invited us for classroom visits. See notes in the Googledoc.
- More listening sessions with faculty/staff before the end of this semester would be difficult, due to the already packed schedule and high levels of stress. It was decided not to schedule more until Fall.
- BSA generously spent a full hour on the conversation on renaming. Students made excellent suggestions for ongoing engagement; see Googledoc for details.

### **SGA listening session, 4/24**

- SGA Roundtable extended an invitation for discussion of renaming. Maryke and Syreeta will attend.

### **Conversations with Pres. Hinton on renaming**

- President Hinton wants to move ahead on forming a task force made up of members from across campus. The President will supply the mandate; Working Group members will provide leadership.
- The co-chairs are to let President Hinton know whether our group approves of this plan; send a suggested reading for Board Members; and attend a meeting with the B.O.T. on Monday 4/26. It was agreed that we'll endorse the task force plan, send suggested articles, and prepare for Monday.
- It was strongly suggested that we ask President Hinton the following: in her announcement of the task force could she also share a timeline for deliverables along with a specific mandate. A finite timeline will help with recruitment for the task force; it will also help establish the taskforce as a legitimate entity.

- We will also suggest to President Hinton that she (or our group) reach out to Shardei Sudler, whose change.org petition jumpstarted the movement to rename Tayloe Gym.

#### **Student participation in Working Group**

- Student participation in the group has waned; this is likely a result of the shift to online meetings, along with general exhaustion, stress, etc.
- We will make an effort to reverse this decline in the fall, by:
  - Reaching out to current student members to ask them to return
  - Recruiting new members – we should talk about orientation over the summer.
  - A student liaison was suggested, perhaps someone working with the new VPDEI? Jeri will check on whether liaison work could be part of the new experiential transcript.

#### **VPDEI conversations**

- The co-chairs and several members met with the first VPDEI candidate last Thursday; anyone available at 2:45 p.m. this Thursday is welcome to come meet with candidate #2.
- Concerns discussed include our wish to invite candidates to both take a leadership role in the group, as well as support such as funding.

#### **Jenine--art piece**

- Maryke is waiting for an answer from External Relations about the nature of a donation made by member(s) of the Cocke family in 2016; Jenine has suggested it might be used to purchase a work by a Black artist.

#### **Other updates on ongoing projects/announcements**

- Bill may have a lead on funding to support the cemetery project; more information on this later.