

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.

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

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.