Friday, February 7, 2020

2:00PM-2:10PM  Call to Order  Jim Leloudis & Pat Parker, Co-Chairs
• Welcome and Introductions  
• Roll Call  

2:10-2:20PM  Charge to the Commission  Kevin Guskiewicz, Chancellor  

2:20-2:35PM  Legal Briefing from Office of University Counsel  Kara Simmons, Associate Vice Chancellor and Senior University Counsel  

2:35-3:15PM  Commission Discussion  Led by Co-Chairs
• Our Principles
  ➢ Openness  
  ➢ Transparency  
  ➢ Collaboration  
  ➢ Accountability  
• Scope of Work  

3:15-3:30PM  Next Steps  Led by Co-Chairs  
• Subcommittee Structure  
• Resources on Sakai  

3:30PM  Adjourn
Draft Minutes from Full Commission Meeting (February 7, 2020)

Call to Order, Welcome
Pat Parker called the meeting to order at 2:00PM and gave a welcome to the group – and to visitors in the audience. Group goes around the table to introduce themselves.

Present Commission Members: Patricia Parker, Jim Leloudis, Kevin Guskiewicz, Sherick Hughes, Nick Graham, Ronald Harris, Larry Chavis, J osmell Perez, Delores Bailey, Seth Kotch, Kenneth Janken, Joseph Jordan, Giselle Corbie-Smith, Dawna Jones, Danita Mason-Hogans, and Anna Rose Medley.

Charge to the Commission
The Chancellor thanks the group, saying this is a historic day. He quoted Dr. King at the MLK Banquet – a quote where Dr. King responded to critics who had told them to wait. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “Time itself is neutral; it can be used either destructively or constructively. More and more I feel that the people of ill will have used time much more effectively than have the people of good will.”

Chancellor tells group they are here to confront the hard truths about the University’s history and give a voice to the long silenced. Chancellor charges the group to explore, engage, and teach. To provide recommendations about how we must reckon with our past – focusing on three areas – 1. Archives, history, research, & curation; 2. Curriculum development & teaching; 3. Engagement, ethics, & reckoning.

Chancellor thanked Dr. Parker and Dr. Leloudis for taking on the task, reminding the whole commission that they are working in an autonomous way. Commission is to build on the great foundation and work of the History Task Force. He hopes they will align with the new curriculum; convene forums and provide opportunities for dialogue; work with the consortium of Universities Studying Slavery; speak publically about the issues and what the commission finds. Thanks group for willingness to do the work.

Legal Briefing
Jim Leloudis entertained a motion to go into closed session “so that we may consult with an attorney from the Office of University Counsel in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege.” It was seconded by Dr. Joseph Jordan and all voted in the affirmative. The committee moved to closed session, and members of the public exited the room.

Jim Leloudis entertained a motion to return to open session. It was seconded all voted in the affirmative.

Discussion on Commission Principles
The committee began discussing the principles that will guide their work. The co-chairs presented the principles they came up with first: openness, transparency, collaboration, accountability. Co-chairs expressed wanting to follow the principle of openness. People will have a lot to say about what we do, and this particular principle will direct us to listen. It’s important to have student involvement. Student voices will have an impact on the work.

Co-chairs continued that transparency is a commitment they are making to the group. Hoping also that commission members will make that same commitment to one another as well as to various stakeholders. We are committed to sharing information freely. Accountability to each other requires that we build trust. There is also an expectation that the initiatives the group recommends will be implemented and taken seriously. Many people are paying attention to what this commission does.
It’s important that this work makes a difference on this campus. This work cannot be about checking boxes and assuming that’s sufficient for moving on.

Conversation turned to principles. There is good work underway – and there is the opportunity for the commission to build a variety of great partnerships. Co-chairs asked group if there were any other ideas with regard to the principles including others that should be added or thoughts about the ones discussed. Commission member brought up the idea of boldness – that many in the group are outspoken, and the group should be outspoken. To speak truth, doing so concisely, clearly, and courageously. Conversation about sharing the work as we are doing it – and not waiting until the end.

It was determined that an added principle would be that of courage – to boldly speak the truth.

Discussion on Scope of Work for the Commission
Conversation began with Research & Scholarship. Commission will be mounting a considerable research enterprise. There is much that has simply not be investigated, which has silenced voices in our history. Commission member brought up work being done at St. Louis University – and specifically a podcast from November of 2019 to be added to the resource list. Co-chairs noted that we will be keeping a list of resources for the commission to refer back to. Group will have a close working relationship with university libraries. Group will be communicating research and making it accessible. Co-chairs brought up the idea of students on the commission – importance of expanding the membership to include students. Outcomes of this work will be scholarship, books, essays, and digital exhibits – access to hidden stories.

Next – Engagement, Ethics, & Reckoning. Co-chairs stated one of the outcomes would be specific policy recommendations with regard to deep issues around healing and repair, equity and inclusivity.

Discussion moved towards overall scope of work. Commission member brought forward concern of what will move the needle – what metric group is using to define success. What will it look like after a certain period of time to see that this was successful, and is this group accomplishing what those charges are? This led into a discussion about the subcommittee structure and how we will do our work together.

Commission member commented that we do not have a definition of community, and we will need to put a definition in for what community is. And how do we receive feedback from people. Co-chairs reiterated we are still putting together how we will work, and beginning our work, but said we will be engaging a broad group of stakeholders – this is fundamental. There are lots of practical questions about how to do this. Broad questions about where the emphasis lies in History, Race, and A Way Forward. Is the emphasis on the way forward? How can we do this work and not talk about diversity of leadership, or tenure – the entire system.

Commission member question about where the racial healing is found in this work. Commission member used example of the Kellogg foundation – and the need to have a framework for the work that we will be doing. There needs to be structural change, grounded in policies. We need to see a measurable difference. This work will need to touch the head but also the heart. Commission member stated the work will need to address UNC’s racialized footprint, and how it affected the greater community.
Co-chair mentioned a possible framework committee – looking at a broader framework for the group. Discussion with group about the need to understand what more is in the three themes and spelling it out in more detail. Also discussion around support to do the work – logistical, financial, as well as the graduate research support. Commission members all have other jobs, engagements and responsibilities on campus and in the broader community and bring great value. Co-chairs asked commission members to let them know what they need in order to do the work and proposed that we will re-visit the conversation around financial support.

Commission member asked that we determine what parallel conversations are happening at the administration level – in hopes not to duplicate efforts.

Co-chairs also asked that group send nominations for student commission members to them for chancellor appointment.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:37PM.

Attachments:
   HRWF – presentation powerpoint
   Commission Charge handout
UNIVERSITY COMMISSION
ON HISTORY, RACE, AND A WAY FORWARD

February 7, 2020
2:00-3:30PM
Pleasants Room, Wilson Library
Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Chancellor’s Charge to the Commission
- Legal Briefing
- Commission Discussion
- Next Steps
CHANCELLOR KEVIN GUSKIEWICZ

Charge to the Commission

Research and teach UNC's racial history, and provide recommendations to the Chancellor on how we as a community can best reckon with the past to promote healing and repair.
COMMISSION ON HISTORY, RACE, AND A WAY FORWARD

Scope of Work

The Commission is asked to focus on the following areas:
• Archives, History, Research, and Curation
• Curriculum Development and Teaching
• Engagement, Ethics, and Reckoning
COMMISSION ON HISTORY, RACE AND A WAY FORWARD

Commission Charge

Explore, engage and teach the University’s history with race, and provide recommendations to the Chancellor on how we as a University community must reckon with the past. During the first three years, the Commission will focus on learning, curating, teaching, and reckoning with our past.

The Commission will be asked to focus on the following areas:

- Archives, History, Research & Curation
- Curriculum Development & Teaching
- Engagement, Ethics & Reckoning

Specifically, the Commission is being asked to:

- Build on the work of the History Task Force to recommend and identify ways to best acknowledge, curate, share and teach the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill’s historic relationship with race. Develop and inform curricula that will educate students and help faculty teach the history of the University, aligned with Ideas in Action, the new General Education curriculum.

- Strengthen relationships with under-represented communities through conversations regarding the historical treatment of those communities and develop protocol and practices for ethical engagement with the University today.

- Convene forums and opportunities for dialogue, reflection and reaction to the university’s historic relationship to race. This should culminate in a symposium and report to include reflections and recommendations to help us build a stronger community together.

- Discuss mutual interests with the Consortium on Universities Studying Slavery to include research and hosting a convening of the Consortium on Universities Studying Slavery.

- Assist in the development of interpretive/interactive media regarding the University’s unique history with race to be included in new student, staff and faculty orientation.

- Produce a journal volume of scholarly articles reflecting on the University’s history with race with the explicit purpose of helping us reckon with the past as a diverse and inclusive community today.

The Commission may seek endorsement from the Chancellor but is recognized as an independent working Commission.