

University Commission on History, Race, and a Way Forward

Meeting Agenda, Final Minutes

Virtual Meeting – streamed on HRWF YouTube Channel



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Tuesday, May 8, 2020

11:00-11:15AM	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome & Introduction of Student Commission Members• Roll Call• Approval of Minutes from March 3rd Meeting	Jim Leloudis & Pat Parker, <i>Co-Chairs</i>
11:15-11:45AM	Presentation <i>A brief overview and conversation with the leaders of the President's Commission on Slavery & the University and the President's Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation at the University of Virginia</i>	Kirt von Daacke, <i>Assistant Dean and Professor (History), College of Arts & Sciences, UVA</i> Andrea Douglas <i>Executive Director, Jefferson School, African American Heritage Center</i> Ashley Schmidt <i>Academic Officer, Commission on the University in the Age of Segregation</i>
11:45AM-12:20PM	Subcommittee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Archives, History, Research, and Curation• Curriculum Development and Teaching• Engagement, Ethics, and Reckoning• Committee Discussion: <i>Recommendations on next steps for Unsung Founders Memorial</i>	<i>Various Commission Members</i>
12:20-12:30PM	Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting schedule• New Resources (HRWF Website)	<i>Led by Co-Chairs</i>
12:30PM	Adjourn	

Commission on History, Race and a Way Forward (May 8, 2020) Final Minutes

Present: **Commission Members:** Ariana Avila, Delores Bailey, Larry Chavis, Giselle Corbie-Smith, Nicholas Graham, Ronald Harris, Amy Locklear Hertel, Danita Horton, Sherick Hughes, Kenneth Janken, Joseph Jordan, Dawna Jones, Seth Kotch, James Leloudis, Danita Mason-Hogans, Patricia Parker, Josmell Pérez, Sydni Walker, Graham Watkins

Guests: Kirt von Daacke (University of Virginia), Andrea Douglas (University of Virginia), Anna Rose Medley (Office of the Chancellor), Ashley Schmidt (University of Virginia), Emily Summers (Office of the Chancellor)

I. Welcome and Introductions

Commission Co-Chair Jim Leloudis welcomed commission members and guests to the meeting. Commission Co-Chair Pat Parker echoed his remarks and welcomed the student commissioners and University of Virginia guests. Parker introduced each student member.

Minutes. Minutes were approved.

II. University of Virginia Commission Members

Jim Leloudis welcomed the University of Virginia (UVA) guests to the meeting: Kirt von Daacke, Andrea Douglas and Ashley Schmidt. He mentioned he would like for the guests to share their thoughts and lessons learned in addition to practical tips for staging a large, multi-year project.

Kirt von Daacke provided a broad overview of the work the UVA commission has done over the past eight years. He said the initial charge was in 2013 and walked through how the process has evolved. He discussed the different stages of their process including research, acknowledgement, atonement, community, education and repair. He mentioned thirteen years ago, UVA started discussing the difficult past of slavery. The first moment of acknowledgement was in 2007 and he discussed the changes to their campus and community since. He discussed how some of the changes are brick and mortar, and some are around story telling. He mentioned they have learned a lot from local partnerships, which has been incredibly important. He explained they have had seven years of consistent engagement with the community and have held many events and welcome community feedback. He said their efforts have been clearly shaped by their community. Von Daacke discussed educational changes at UVA including curriculum, courses, capstone seminar and an intensive high school summer camp. He mentioned they have three websites, one for each commission's process of work and have a Twitter feed. He concluded with repair and how they are working on it.

Andrea Douglas mentioned how she has also been working on the commission since 2013. She discussed her background and experiences with the commission and lessons learned. She discussed community engagement and the Heritage Center. She explained the importance of trust and importance of community partnerships.

Ashley Schmidt explained how both von Daacke and Douglas covered a lot of ground. She said she is two years in and explained how they have looked at about seven hundred files from student publications and fifty-one different collections in their special collections. She discussed the importance of outreach and community engagement.

Commission Discussion

Commission members and guests had discussions around recent protests and their work, University responses, UVA leadership and the commission, faculty compensation, importance of oral history, student engagement and navigating social media.

Parker and Leloudis thanked the UVA guests and the guests then provided closing remarks.

III. Subcommittee Reports

Parker and Leloudis asked each subcommittee to provide insights on a framework for this commission. They mentioned they would take the suggestions and collate the ideas into a draft document for the July meeting.

Engagement, Ethics and Reckoning Subcommittee

The subcommittee recommended having a similar framework to the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Framework (healourcommunitites.org.) They mentioned it should be something the Commission use as an overarching framework. The subcommittee further explained things they would like to see accomplished through this commission:

1. Contextualizing slavery on campus and in our community
2. Ensuring funds to support the work of storytelling and racial healing on campus and in our community
3. Reviewing protocols for race-based incidents
4. Telling the story about the relationships between the campus and community
5. Continue to build strong relationships with campus and community
6. Unsung Founders Memorial potential changes:
 - a. Indoor Piece
 - b. Re-Memorialize
 - c. Multi-site memorial across campus

Archive Subcommittee

The subcommittee discussed three principles for the proposed framework:

1. Proceed with unflinching openness
2. Do not wall-off history from the work of repair
3. Conduct work in partnership with community stakeholders

This subcommittee also discussed potential projects:

1. Research history of slavery
2. Focus on University's appropriation of native lands
3. Curation of University-owned burial plots of enslaved people
4. Interpretation of campus landscape
5. Formation of a Community Advisory Council

Curriculum and Teaching Subcommittee

The subcommittee proposed a framework for the commission:

1. Broad definition of curriculum
2. Expanding what it means to be a Tar Heel
3. Prepare students for cross-cutting dialogue
4. Focus on manuals and curriculum at UNC and in the community
5. Use equity literacy as a motivating concept
6. Looking into tenure guidelines

This subcommittee also addressed some challenges:

1. Issues for faculty of color
2. Racial equity training
3. Storytelling of marginalized populations
4. Alumni involvement
5. All groups fitting into the story and making history current

IV. Concluding Remarks

Parker thanked the subcommittees for their reports. Leloudis discussed the Unsung Founders Memorial and there was committee discussion to continue developing ideas for the Memorial. There was discussion about other stakeholders, including community experts to also be involved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.