University Commission on History, Race, and a Way Forward

Meeting Agenda + Approved Minutes

Virtual Meeting – streamed on HRWF YouTube Channel

Monday, September 27, 2021

3:30-3:35PM Call to Order

- Welcome
- Introduction of new member, Dr. Simona Goldin
- Roll Call
- Approval of Minutes: August 30, 2021

Jim Leloudis & Pat Parker, Co-Chairs

3:35-3:45PM Commission Updates

- Thank you to Professor Sherick Hughes
- Universities Studying Slavery Conference
  UNC-CH to Host, Spring 2023
- Land Acknowledgement Work

Jim Leloudis & Pat Parker, Co-Chairs

3:45-4:30PM Unsung Founders Memorial - Webinar Planning

Dawna Jones, Joseph Jordan, Pat Parker, & Jim Leloudis

4:30PM Adjourn
I. Welcome and Introduction

Commission Co-Chair Pat Parker welcomed Commission members to the meeting and thanked them for being there. Co-Chair Parker introduced Dr. Simona Goldin, new commission member, to the group. She expressed gratitude to the Chancellor for making the appointment.

Co-Chair Leloudis completed a roll call from those present on the Zoom screen. Minutes from the August meeting were approved unanimously.

II. Commission Updates

Co-Chair Leloudis shared the agenda. Co-Chair Parker thanked Commissioner Sherick Hughes for his service to the commission. Dr. Hughes has stepped off the commission to focus on his research, teaching and faculty leadership roles.

The Commission and UNC will host Universities Studying Slavery consortium for the spring conference in Spring 2023. Planning is underway.

Co-chair Leloudis provided an update ongoing work on the Land Acknowledgement. There will be additional updates at the next commission meeting.

III. Commission Conversation: Unsung Founders Webinar Planning

Co-Chair Parker, updated the group on planning that is underway to host a webinar series on the Unsung Founders Memorial. Co-chairs Parker and Leloudis and commissioners Dawna Jones, Joseph Jordan and Sydni Walker have been involved in the initial planning.

During the Spring 2020 strategic visioning session with Turn of Events, the commission identified priorities for our work. Unsung Founders was designated as a focus among the sites of memory projects. In conversation with the project leads (Dawna Jones and Joseph Jordan), the commission is planning two webinars to discuss the past and future of the memorial. The aim is to Educate about the memorial's origin story, its siting and community feedback starting at the time of its installation and dedication, and the way various publics have interacted with it since.

The Unsung Founders Memorial was a gift from the Class of 2002. Co-chair Parker has been working on contacting the class leaders about participating as panelists in the first
webinar. pro for the campus or community. We are also working to get the word out among community members, alumni, and others and to engage people wherever they happen to be.

*The first webinar is scheduled for October 12.* We are asking for input from the commission as plans are shaping up. Commissioner Jones spoke about who we hope to have as panelists – the key stakeholders at the time of planning and dedication. A few panelists that have been finalized are Dr. Reginald Hildebrand, a faculty member at the time of the memorial’s dedication, and we are hoping to confirm leaders from the Class of 2002 very soon. We are having some trouble confirming community members, so suggestions are welcomed.

Commissioner Bailey shared a Chapel Hill community member is different than a Chapel Hill employee. She observed that we are missing an actual staff member or laborer to be included among the panelist (beyond the administration). Commissioner Mason-Hogans was pleased that members of the community had asked her about this – she is hearing about our outreach on this. Co-chair Parker commended Commissioner Jones for her leadership and outreach to the community.

Co-chair Parker shared questions from the slide. Each panelist participating in the first webinar will respond to one or more of the following questions:

1. What was your role at the university or in the community?
2. How did the idea originate and why did the class feel it was an important statement to make at the time?
3. Who were the participants in the decision making?
4. Based on your experience how well did the memorial fulfill its intended purpose?
5. Please share how your view might have changed (if at all) since the time of the dedication.

There are many new people on this campus since 2002/2005. This is the opportunity to familiarize all the people that have a stake in conversations about the Unsung Founders Memorial – and an opportunity to get people grounded in the history.

*The second webinar is tentatively planned for October 18.* The discussion then turned to a focus on input from the commission on the second webinar, now tentatively planned for October 18. This will be a look to a way forward for the memorial.

*During the meeting, parts of the campus lost access to Zoom – so the meeting went into a break for a few moments.*

Commissioner Goldin shared that this is an opportunity to think pedagogically. How do we ensure we hear from particular people and voices that are expansive? Could we share ideas on a jam board as ideas are bubbling up? The conversation then turned to consider how to use small groups and breakouts or google docs to scribe ideas. This would ensure that questions from participants are asked and answered and would also give people time to respond. These pedagogical strategies are designed to ensure maximum participation. Commissioner Corbie-Smith recommended that the commission should be using these types of pedagogical strategies anytime we engage – and not just to the second webinar, but also to the first. Commissioner Corbie-Smith offered to serve as a thought partner to develop our process for this engagement as did Commissioner Goldin.
Discussion about intention for first session – the first webinar is truly for people that do not know the history of the memorial. We are trying to give people foundational information the need to create a much more open and inviting space for people to engage further. Also, it may be that we do several conversations. Idea shared to have people (during the webinar) reflect further in the chat.

Review of discussion of creating a process of engagement for the webinars – The next steps in the planning process include convening a subsequent conversation with the core planners and thought partners as we finalize this for October 12th–University Day.

Co-chair Parker also suggested that we should consider having a survey follow-up from the webinar. Open to ideas. Commissioner Jordan said we will follow up with Giselle and Simona after the meeting.

Open discussion

There was a question from Commissioner Bailey about removal of name from buildings and where the university was with our request. Co-chair Parker shared we have 10 recommendations for removal pending and shared that the Chancellor has taken the step to convene the ad hoc committee that will review the recommendation. Co-chair Parker then reviewed the process set forth by the Board of Trustees. Co-chair Parker clarified that the commission hasn’t recommended any names for renaming – but instead for the removal of names.

Co-chair Leloudis shared that Commissioner Jordan and he are on the Naming Committee. The Chancellor put out a call requesting names and the committee took all the recommendations and narrowed them down for consideration. Everyone is now waiting to find out what will be the answer.

Co-chair Parker thanked Commissioner Bailey and Commissioner Mason-Hogans for their question and follow up comments.

Student Commission Member Graham Watkins asked about funding from Morehead Cain and about update on partnership with Arts Everywhere. Co-Chair Leloudis shared we are in early stages of development discussing web-based or an augmented reality platform to make information more widely available (information we are finding in the archives).

With no other discussion items, Co-Chair Parker adjourned at approximately 4:25 P.M.

Attachments: HRWF Presentation (09.27.21)
UNIVERSITY COMMISSION
ON HISTORY, RACE, AND A WAY FORWARD

September 27, 2021
3:30-4:30PM
Virtual Meeting – HRWF YouTube Channel
SEPTMBER 27, 2021. FULL COMMISSION MEETING

I. Call to Order
   • Welcome
   • Introduction of Dr. Simona Goldin
   • Roll Call
   • Approval of 08/30/21 Full Commission Mtg. minutes

II. Commission Updates

III. Working Session with Full Commission
    Feedback on Unsung Founders Webinar series planning
Unsung Founders Memorial
Past & Future

Webinar I:
October 12 (7:00PM)

Webinar II:
October 18 (7:00PM)
WEBINAR I: OCTOBER 12, 2021

**GOAL**

To *Educate*. And to *Discuss* early conversations and the origins of the memorial — and then, *Share* community feedback starting at the time of its installation and dedication, and the ways we have interacted with it since.

**PANEL**

- Student Reps from Class of 2002
- UNC Administrators
- UNC Faculty Member
- Chapel Hill Community Member

**QUESTIONS**

- What was your role at the university or in the community/local area at the time the memorial was proposed (2001-2002).
- How did the idea for the memorial originate and why did the class feel like this was an important statement to make at the time?
- Who were the participants in the decision making and conversations around (a) purpose of the memorial, (b) the university’s endorsement of the project and (c) the placement of the memorial (d) and selection of the artist?
- Based on your experience/vantage point/memory: how well did the memorial fulfill its intended purpose?
- Please share how your view might have changed (if at all) since the time of the dedication

**MODERATORS**

Pat Parker & Dawna Jones
WEBINAR II: OCTOBER 18, 2021

GOAL

Conversation about what is next for the memorial. **Lift up community voices.** Engage in deep thinking with panel of community leaders, students, faculty, staff, and alumni.