

University Commission on History, Race, and a Way Forward

Minutes

Virtual Meeting – streamed on HRWF YouTube Channel



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

Monday, November 14, 2022

Commission on History, Race, and A Way Forward (November 14, 2022)

DRAFT Minutes

Present: **Commission Members:** Co-Chair Patricia Parker, Co-Chair Jim Leloudis, Nicholas Graham, Danita Mason-Hogans, Joseph Jordan, Simona Goldin, Giselle Corbie, Delores Bailey

YouTube Link for Meeting: <https://youtu.be/DzGv3BcEBOI>

I. Welcome and Introduction

Co-Chair Parker welcomed commission members to the meeting and held a moment of silence for the University of Virginia. Co-Chair Patricia Parker then completed the roll call. Minutes from the September meeting were approved unanimously.

Co-Chair Leloudis welcomed the newest member of the Commission, Danielle Hiraldo, Director of the American Indian Center. Danielle Hiraldo thanked the group.

II. Updates

Co-Chair Parker updated the commission on the Barbee Cemetery Project and the Unsung Founders Memorial. She emphasized the importance of collaboration between the local community and the Commission as these projects develop long-term and short-term goals. In both projects, there is a desire on the part of the community and commission to develop a process for reconciliation and repair. She noted that in both project, there is a need for short-term design intervention including signage, anti-racist contextualization, and protection against desecration. She informed the Commission that the Co-Chairs are in a position to begin work on the short-term design intervention but are still committed to long-term goals of deeper reconciliation and repair. She announced that community conversations will be held where information on these design interventions will be presented.

Co-Chair Leloudis added that he hopes to develop a comprehensive list of the enslaved artisans and laborers who built the university and find ways to share that information on the landscape as the Barbee Cemetery and Unsung Founders Memorial projects continue.

Commissioner Member Giselle Corbie asked the Commission how this narrative will be able to be incorporated into tours of the University to ensure the University's history is accessible to all those who represent the university. Co-Chair Leloudis emphasized the importance of a working

relationship with UNC Admissions and the University Visitor's Center. Commission Member Delores Bailey reiterated Giselle Corbie's points and called for the inclusion of the history of the local community on campus.

Co-Chair Parker called for research into the processes and mechanisms by which these histories can be included on campus tours.

Commission Member Simona Goldin expressed gratitude to her colleagues for their words. She reflected on her relationship with students in her courses, remarking that students do not know the University's history with enslavement in the way they should. She called for the creation historical markers on campus to be used as opportunities to learn for all those who visit UNC Chapel Hill's campus. She went on to mention the importance of animating the story of UNC's history with the story of the community,

Commission Member Nicholas Graham noted that public history work is an ongoing, constant commitment and advocated for the Commission to make this work be a permanent part of the University, not just something a time-limited Commission puts effort into. Co-Chair Parker and Co-Chair Leloudis reiterated this point.

III. Universities Studying Slavery Conference Spring 2023 Updates

Co-Chair Leloudis informed the commission that planning for the 2023 Universities Studying Slavery Conference is well underway. He announced that the Call for Papers was released in tandem with some active recruiting for involvement. He informed the Commission that the Chancellor's office has fully funded the conference, including bringing on event planning staff and communications staff. He also thanked Commission Members Danita Mason-Hogans, Delores Bailey, Simona Goldin, and Nicholas Graham for being a part of the Planning Committee.

Commissioner Danita Mason-Hogans reported on the Planning Committee's commitment to a community-focused conference opening. She reiterated the importance of centering the Chapel Hill community in all aspects of the conference.

Commission Member Danielle Hiraldo requested there be space within the Conference for conversation and scholarship around the dispossession of Native American land. Co-Chair Leloudis agreed.

Co-Chair Parker explained to the Commission that the Universities Studying Slavery Conference's goal is to present a counter-narrative to the traditional academic conference and do something for the opening that centers the story of how UNC Chapel Hill emerged from dispossession and enslavement.

Co-Chair Leloudis reminded the Commission that the USS Conference will be held March 15-18, 2023.

IV. Community Book Club Announcement

Commissioners Mason-Hogans and Simona Goldin announced the approval and funding of a community book club on "From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century" by William A. Darity and A. Kirsten Mullen. They announced that the funding will

allow for the purchase of 100 books for the community. The book club will be a series of community reads and discussions with community scholars and the book's authors. The book club will begin in early 2023.

Co-Chair Parker applauded Simona and Danita for their work on this project.

V. Conclusions

Co-Chair Parker took questions and comments from Commission members and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 4:27pm.