

# University History Subcommittee Reports and Notes

## **Monday, August 17, 2020 Meeting**

Presidential Commission on University History

### **Discussion**

Discussed need for hiring a grad student. One will be hired for Names on the Landscape Committee; discussed possibility of sharing with that committee. Elizabeth West mentioned that she has possible research funds that could cover the hiring of an additional grad student. Possible students were discussed.

Discussion of the priorities of the committee. Need to identify the gaps in published University histories. Also, need to understand the differences and overlaps with Names on the Landscape Committee. Should we be looking for potential building names?

Made list of groups that we know are missing from published histories and most memorialization. We understand that this is a partial list.

1. African Americans
2. LGBTQIA+
3. Women (including faculty wives)
4. Native Americans
5. Latinos
6. Asian American
7. Pacific Islanders
8. Jewish/Muslim/and other marginalized religions
9. African
10. Custodial and maintenance workers
11. Other staff
12. International student contributions and achievements

We need to keep in mind that students deserve to be a part of this process and that the process should be transparent.

### **Action Items**

Create a shared document outlining the research and previous work that we know exists (Ward One app, Ghosts on the Horseshoe app, Slavery at South Carolina College website, previous students' research, Historic Columbia's research, and others)

Create a spreadsheet to track research

### **Recommendations**

1. Create a Google document that everyone can contribute to

2. Begin a social media campaign to highlight significant individuals (one per month was suggested)
3. Use the website to show progress

### **Wednesday, September 2 2020**

Presidential Commission on University History

#### **Attending**

Val Littlefield

Elizabeth West

Todd Shaw

Christian Anderson

Mercedez Lopez-Rodriguez

#### **Discussion**

Revisited and discussed the goals for this committee as laid out by President Caslen. We will need to look at all the buildings and their histories. Elizabeth mentioned that she continues to look for research help in the archival community. She also has a list of buildings with dates and other information that she will upload to the Teams page. Jennifer has begun a spreadsheet that will include information that can be built upon and has loaded it to Teams.

Jennifer has been doing further research on the naming of Strom Thurmond Fitness Center. Elizabeth has scans of the meeting relevant BOT notes and will share with Jennifer. There is also a need to create a spreadsheet for wanted archival material to share with archives so that they can efficiently gather what is requested.

There was a return to discussing the hiring of a graduate student to assist with research. The possibility of hiring an international student was addressed and what the hours would need to be to stay within university protocol. The need for a written job description was brought up by Todd. Val and Elizabeth will work on pulling that together.

Other ideas were discussed on how this information could be easily disseminated as it is discovered. How can we tell a more diverse story of life at UofSC across the generations? This would also get to the students desire for visible work being done by the committee. Elizabeth wondered what they might like to see: social media; orientation booklet. Jennifer said she would get input from Student Government.

Other ways to visibly disseminate information and be more transparent:

- Pull together the existing content for the website
- Address university curricula
- Each department and College could include a history of their founding on their webpages to include the history of the building's name
- Create a resource guide
- Work with Art to develop a brief documentary series about unrevealed history of the University. "This happened here" campaign
- Partner with local communities that have been impacted by the University

- Russell House ballroom as a possible location for public input on buildings and any other issues of concern such as oral interviews because of the need to be more inclusive.
- Create a statement for the website inviting interested parties who wish to present to the committee to submit a written statement

### **Goals**

1. By end of fall semester have a brief of basic information on the people buildings are named for.
2. Spring semester we will develop the information

### **Action Items**

Work on shared document outlining the research and previous work that we know exists (Ward One app, Ghosts on the Horseshoe app, Slavery at South Carolina College website, previous students' research, Historic Columbia's research, and others)

Create a spreadsheet to track research

Craft a job description for research help

### **Recommendations (continued from last meeting)**

1. Create a Google document that everyone can contribute to
2. Begin a social media campaign to highlight significant individuals (one per month was suggested)
3. Use the website to show progress

### **Friday, October 2, 2020 Meeting**

Presidential Commission on University History

#### **Attending**

Val Littlefield

Elizabeth West

Todd Shaw

Christian Anderson

Mercedez Lopez-Rodriguez

Jennifer Gunter

Melissa Develvis

### **Discussion**

Elizabeth West updated the committee on current standing of the Commission's webpage. It is currently one page with a section for the community to share their thoughts. We have to date received one comment. There is also a general email address for people to send questions and comments. IT is working on building out the page which can be released to the public in stages. They are awaiting structure from the Commission, which Jennifer Gunter and Melissa Develvis will work on.

Research Assistant, Dr. Melissa Develvis, was introduced to the subcommittee. She has done extensive research into the history of the University and will contribute her research skills to

the good of the Commission. Discussion was held concerning a final goal of a well-designed website to include GIS mapping, Omeka (<https://omeka.org>), an online tool used to disseminate academic and scholarly research. This would allow for a layering of histories that would enable users to click through different historic eras beginning with the Indigenous lands. The University is on the land of the Tsalaguwetiyi (Eastern Band of the Cherokee), and Catawba Nations.

Revisited and discussed the goals for this committee as laid out by President Caslen. We are to focus on:

1. A broader history of the university to include and highlight impact made by marginalized groups as well as their contributions to the University.
2. Recommendations of historic figures for potential renaming of buildings.

Discussion was held on the need to be objective in our work and be intentional about uncovering hidden histories.

#### **Goals by the end of the semester**

1. List of potential new names with justification.
2. Template for highlighting the history of marginalized communities with information available to the community of students, alumni, and broader public

#### **Action Items**

Draft a document/template for highlighting the history of marginalized communities. Build out spreadsheet on potential new figures to name buildings after. (available in subcommittee folder on Teams)

#### **Recommendations (continued from last meeting)**

1. Host a lecture series to highlight historical research being done on topics relative to the work of the commission

#### **Wednesday, January 20, 2021**

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Type of Meeting: Zoom

Meeting Facilitators: Jennifer Gunter and Val Littlefield, co-chairs

- I. Call to order
- II. Old Business
  - a. Template for expanded history
    - i. Update from Jennifer
    - ii. Update from Melissa
- III. New Business

- a. Proposal from Jessica Allison
  - b. New meeting structure
  - c. Updates
- IV. Adjournment

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021 2:00 p.m.**

Type of Meeting: Zoom

Meeting Facilitators: Jennifer Gunter and Val Littlefield, co-chairs

Attending:

Todd Shaw

Elizabeth West

Valinda Littlefield

Jessica Allison

Myisha Eatmon

Jennifer Gunter

Christian Anderson

- I. Call to order
- II. Old Business
  - a. Template for expanded history (document in Teams)
  - i. Move forward to full commission after final draft
  - b. Recommended new names
  - i. Review (document in Teams)
    - 1. Prioritize first five
      - a. Judge Ernest A. Finney, Jr.
      - b. Robert G. Anderson, Henrie Monteith Treadwell, James L. Solomon Jr.
      - c. Celia Dial Saxon
      - d. T. McCants Stewart
      - e. Luther Battiste
    - 2. Prioritize second five
      - a. Alonzo Townsend
      - b. Rollin Sisters
      - c. Robert Smalls
      - d. William Whipper
      - e. Matilda Evans
    - c. Hear from Jessica Allen – needs for project
      - i. She is researching fundraising possibilities
- III. New Business
  - a. Discussion of the new student union. One of our recommendations is to support the NPHC meeting room
  - b. Another recommendation is a published full account of each individual whose name is on a building
  - c. Compose subcommittee recommendations – and prioritize
  - i. Suggested financing for research: Each of the below would work in conjunction with Andrea in oral history

- a. Year long post doc – it’s important to have someone devoted singularly to this project for at least a full year.
  - b. Course release for faculty over the course of 2-3 years
  - c. Coordinate assignments with classes as a complement to the above
  - i. Issues with this include:
    - 1. Uneven quality of research
    - 2. Luther Battiste Plaza
    - 3. #thatsnotmyname
    - 4. Others
  - d. New meeting structure – every two weeks to finish business by the end of Spring semester – suggested 6:00 every other Wednesday
- IV. Adjournment

**Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

Type of Meeting: Zoom

Meeting Facilitators: Jennifer Gunter and Val Littlefield, co-chairs

Attending: Mercedes Lopez-Rodriguez, Melissa DeVelvis, Elizabeth West, Christian Anderson, Todd Shaw, Jessica Allison, Hannah White

- I. Call to order
- II. Old Business
  - a. Template for expanded history
  - i. Vote to move forward to full commission -- unanimous approval
  - ii. <https://native-land.ca> to be added.
  - b. Recommended new names
    - i. Discussion UofSC NAACP chapter’s database of racist names. Committee decided to expand the recommended name list to include those mentioned. We also discussed ways to get members of the chapter involved with the PCUH.
    - ii. Discussion of possibilities of naming schools, colleges, programs, etc.
- III. New Business
  - a. Hannah White presents her virtual tour <https://hannahjw456.wixsite.com/uofscaatour>
    - i. Discussion on how the committee can help expand this site and make it more comprehensive. Elizabeth West will assist Hannah with this.
  - b. Wheeler Hill letters
    - i. Discussion of two letters received from former residents, descendants of former residents, and clergy from St. James. There was unanimous consensus from the committee that we will support this initiative. We will ask the full commission to vote for a letter of support St. James African American Episcopal Church’s request for reconciliation through USC’s purchase of four lots surrounding the church, deeding that land to the church.
    - ii. In 1968 USC President Thomas F. Jones wrote that “For many years it has been the goal of the University and the City of Columbia to attempt to wipe out the entire slum area of approximately twelve blocks known as Wheeler Hill.”
  - c. End of semester goals

- i. Have template approved and uploaded to website
  - ii. List of recommended names with brief descriptions. Melissa will create documents in Teams so that we may all contribute when we have time.
  - iii. Proposal for Luther Battiste Plaza. Jessica Allison is working on this.
  - iv. Course descriptions for recommended courses to document untold stories – Christian Anderson, Val Littlefield, and others will work on this.
  - v. Discussion of need for a misc. category goal for further work to be done.
- IV. Adjournment

**Tuesday, March 3, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

Type of Meeting: Zoom

Meeting Facilitators: Jennifer Gunter and Val Littlefield, co-chairs

Attendees: Myisha Eatmon, Jessica Allison, Elizabeth West, Todd Shaw, Christian Anderson, Melissa DeVelvis

- I. Call to order
- II. Old Business
  - a. Check in from Jessica Allison
    - i. Going well – looking at \$50,000 - \$150,000 and there is much support from alums and probably students as well. Need to find a location. Will work with Christian Anderson to understand the process.
  - b. Check in from Melissa DeVelvis
    - i. Volunteers for writeups -- folders in the Teams folder are numbered by priority committee voted on.
      - 1. Elizabeth: Townsend and Stewart
      - 2. Myisha: Evans and Smalls
      - 3. Jessica: Battiste and Walker
      - 4. Christian: Greener
      - 5. Val: Anderson, Montieth Treadwell, Solomon and Rollin Sisters
      - 6. Bingo: Finney and Whipper
    - ii. Basic bio and connection to Columbia or the University
    - iii. Deadline April 15
      - c. Timeline for completion – June 1
- III. New Business
  - a. Course descriptions
    - i. Allison Marsh – pros and cons on Sims assigned by gender
    - ii. Christian Anderson
    - iii. Val Littlefield – African American experience biography – 10 -12 interviews. In the fall public education
    - iv. Harry Singleton
    - v. Other ideas?
      - b. Webpage

- i. Check in from Elizabeth West
  - 1. Links to other work eg: Jane Pryzbyz Native American history project
  - 2. Should be a way to publicize that the history site is a place to highlight work being done
  - c. Wheeler Hill – subcommittee will work on drafting a letter of support.
- IV. Adjournment

**Wednesday, March 17 2021 6:00 p.m.**

Type of Meeting: Zoom

Meeting Facilitators: Jennifer Gunter and Val Littlefield, co-chairs

- I. Call to order
- II. Old Business
  - a. Check in from Jessica Allison
    - i. Another group has been working on recognizing NPHC contributions. Nelda Bailey will attend our next subcommittee meeting to update us and to see how we might support them.
    - ii. Updated us on the upcoming (TBD) unveiling of the Harold White Courtyard—located between Rice Athletics Center and Dodie Anderson Academic Enrichment Center
  - b. Check in from committee – Melissa can assist with these if need be.
  - i. Volunteers for writeups
    - 1. Deadline – April 15
    - 2. Format – 500 word bio, connection to university/state/contribution
- III. New Business
  - a. New subcommittee member Maggie Carson, President of the Graduate Student Association
  - b. Naming Criteria
    - i. Below are a small selection of other universities’ naming criteria. Subcommittee will review and discuss at next meeting.
      - 1. University of Kansas <https://policy.ku.edu/provost/naming-university-facilities>
      - 2. UofSC Libraries – don’t see criteria [https://sc.edu/about/offices\\_and\\_divisions/university\\_libraries/support/opportunities/naming\\_opportunities.php](https://sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/university_libraries/support/opportunities/naming_opportunities.php)
      - 3. Iowa State <https://www.policy.iastate.edu/policy/naming>
      - 4. University of California <https://policy.ucop.edu/doc/6000434/NamingProperties>
      - 5. Berkley <https://vpap.berkeley.edu/space-planning/policies-and-guidelines/principles-naming>
      - 6. Binghamton University <https://www.binghamton.edu/operations/policies/policy-406.html>
      - 7. UNC Greensboro -- also includes revoking names <https://policy.uncg.edu/university-policies/names/#revoking>
    - c. Webpage
      - i. Will send last reminder to full commission
      - d. Wheeler Hill



- i. Jennifer Gunter will have completed by next meeting with assistance from Todd Shaw and Val Littlefield
- e. Course suggestions
  - i. How can we incorporate this history into U101? This will allow us to use the university's strategic priorities of furthering cultural competency. It might need a recrafting and we can work on a piloted version.
  - ii. Christian Anderson will offer History of Higher Education graduate course this fall. The theme will be UofSC history and will work to flesh out Hannah White's app.
- IV. Adjournment

**Wednesday, March 31 2021 6:00 p.m.**

Type of Meeting: Zoom

Meeting Facilitators: Jennifer Gunter and Val Littlefield, co-chairs

- I. Call to order
  - a. Attending
    - Myisha Eatmon
    - Jessica Allison
    - Melissa DeVelvis
    - Christian Anderson
    - Elizabeth West
    - Todd Shaw
    - Nelda Bailey, guest
    - Blakely Hardin, guest
- II. Old Business
  - a. Check in from committee
    - i. Ideas for naming criteria (**Approved to be sent to full commission**)
    - ii. Discussion—are there university policies vetting donors?
      - 1. Individuals of outstanding personal character who have made substantial contributions to society or to a field of study, or who have made substantial contributions as a member of the University faculty, staff, or student, or who have a personal connection to or support of the mission of the University, Columbia, or South Carolina.
      - 2. Naming an existing building after a donor implies a significant contribution of the donor both in terms of the size of the gift in relationship to the original cost of the building or facility, and significance of the gift to the future of the University campus.
      - 3. A thorough degree of due diligence to avoid commercial influence, conflict of interest, or other ethical issues.
      - 4. Forfeiture of a naming opportunity may occur when the University's relationship with the donor or honoree is no longer positive, the donor does not fulfill the financial commitment, or the donor's/honoree's personal or business circumstances are such that affiliation with the University is deemed inappropriate.
      - 5. Must adhere to the Carolinian Creed.

- III. New Business
  - a. Nelda Bailey, Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life will discuss NPHC remembrance project
    - i. They have been working on this project for 2-3 years due to the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Divine Nine at UofSC. They are looking at 5 locations, 4 of which have been approved. Are working on design and the reveal. Alumni is engaged. Current plans are for a reveal in Fall 2021. Cost estimate is \$50,000-\$90,000. Committee supports this project.
  - b. Blakely Hardin will discuss Freshman Council Legacy project
    - i. Council is working on a mural project for the Pickens Street bridge. Want to honor 18 notable students/faculty/staff. Committee provided a list of recommendations for honorees and support this project.
- IV. Adjournment

**Wednesday, April 28, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

Type of Meeting: Zoom

Meeting Facilitators: Jennifer Gunter and Val Littlefield, co-chairs

- I. Call to order
- II. Old Business
  - a. Webpage meeting on May 6 with Melissa Spring
  - b. Wheeler Hill
    - i. Bishop Green shared with me it's a done deal with the 2 lots on Henderson Street so we praise God. Potentially the guy who owns the blue house is considering his property to the church or maybe assisting with the lots on rice street next to his house.
  - c. Suggested name writeups
- III. New Business
  - a. Adam King with the SC Institute for Archeology
    - i. Other units?
  - b. End of semester goals
  - c. Report
  - d. Course descriptions
  - e. UGA <https://www.slaveryatuga.org>