Special Committee on Diversity

Board of Visitors
February 21, 2014
PRESIDENT’S COMMISSION ON SLAVERY AND THE UNIVERSITY PCSU
PCSU History

• Interested Groups
  – MEL (Memorial for Enslaved Laborers) Committee
  – UCARE (University & Community Action for Racial Equity)
  – U.Va. IDEA Fund
  – Office of the VP & Chief Officer for Diversity & Equity
  – Office of the Architect
  – Peer Review Committee for the Cultural Landscape Report
  – Gravesite Commemoration Committee
  – Office of African American Affairs
  – University Library
  – Carter G. Woodson Institute
  – University Guide Service

• Presentation to President’s Cabinet (Spring 2013)
• Formation of PCSU by President Sullivan (Fall 2013)
Commission Members

- Derrick Aldridge
- Andrea Douglas
- Ishraga Eltahir
- Tierney Fairchild
- Dorrie Fontaine
- Ben Ford
- Gertrude Fraser
- Gary Gallagher
- Patrice Grimes
- Walt Heinecke
- Mary Hughes
- Petrina Jackson
- Alex Johnson
- Ervin Jordan
- Pat Lampkin
- Khalifa Lee
- Deborah McDowell
- Maurie McInnis
- Matt Reeves
- Tamika Richeson
- Susan Stein
- Edna Turay
- Liz Varon
- Richard Wilson

Co-chairs Dr. Marcus Martin and Kirt von Daacke
Meaghan Faulkner, Staff
President’s Charge to Commission

Provide advice and recommendations to the President on the commemoration of the University of Virginia’s historical relationship with slavery and enslaved people
Initiatives of the Commission

• Investigate the interpretation of historically significant buildings/sites related to slavery at U.Va.
• Discuss mutual interests with Monticello and Montpelier
• Assist with interpretive/interactive media in the Rotunda Visitor’s Center
Initiatives of the Commission

• Propose projects (similar to the Henry Martin plaque) that would educate students, faculty, staff, and visitors about free and enslaved individuals who worked on Grounds

• Consider appropriate memorialization including the African American gravesite site adjacent to the University cemetery

• Organize symposia
Working Groups

• Architecture
• Collaboration with External Partners
• Daily Life
• Memorialization
• Gravesites/Commemoration
Existing Memorials:
Slate Marker at Rotunda

- Small slate memorial honoring the service of free and enslaved workers during the construction of U.Va.’s original buildings.
- In-ground memorial located in the passage under the south terrace of the Rotunda.
- Installed in 2007.

IN HONOR OF THE SEVERAL HUNDRED WOMEN AND MEN, BOTH FREE AND ENSLAVED, WHOSE LABOR BETWEEN 1817 AND 1826 HELPED TO REALIZE THOMAS JEFFERSON’S DESIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
Existing Memorials: “Canada” Community – South Lawn

- Tells the story of a community of free African Americans and their business and social relationships with the University community.
- Site of Kitty Foster homestead and adjacent African American burial grounds are preserved in a one-acre park.
- Completed in 2010.
Existing Memorials: Henry Martin Plaque

- Honors bell-ringer and custodian Henry Martin, born in slavery at Monticello in 1826.
- In-ground plaque located near the U.Va. Chapel.
- Proposed and supported by John and Trula Wright and the U.Va. IDEA Fund.
- Installed in 2012.

![Henry Martin Plaque Image]
AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAVESITE
AFRICAN AMERICAN GRAVESITE
Communications and Research

• Website Developed

• POST-DOC Research Position
PCSU Advisory Boards

• National Advisory Board
  – Invited faculty institutions:
    Brown, California Berkeley,
    Dartmouth, Emory,
    George Mason University, MIT,
    University of Central Florida,
    University of Alabama, Stanford,
    William and Mary

• Local Advisory Board
Symposium:
Universities Confronting The Legacy of Slavery

• National experts invited

• African American Gravesite Commemoration

• October 16 and 17, 2014