Project Gabriel- President’s Special Commission on Slavery and Justice

Minutes

Date: March 9, 2023

Duration: 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Platform: Zoom

Attendees: Rhonda Keyes Pleasants, Jonsette Calloway, Bill Martin, Matt Conrad, Faye Belgrave, Dr. Ed Ayers, Dr. Kevin Harris, Dr. Yvonne Brandon, Maya Johnson, Dr. [Clifton Peay](mailto:cpvision@icloud.com)(Chair)

*Guests:* Dr.Peter Wosh, Dr. Jody Lynn Allen, Dr. Fanchon Glover

**Charge:** Based on the findings of the December 17, 2022 report on Slavery and the Medical College of Virginia, this Commission is charged with recommending to the Administration and Board of Visitors of VCU specific ways in which the institution should:

*(i) memorialize all enslaved individuals who labored on MCV grounds and property; and*

*(ii) provide a tangible benefit such as a college scholarship or community-based economic development program for individuals or specific communities with a demonstrated historic connection to slavery.*

# Discussion/Updates

* Presentations/Q&A (Dr. Peter Wosh; Dr. Lynn Allen, Dr. Glover - W&M Lemon Project)
  + Peter Wosh shared insights from the MCV Campus report- [*Slavery and the Medical College of Virginia*](https://emsw.vcu.edu/media/emsw-2022/Enslaved_Ancestors_final.pdf)
  + Dr. Allen and Dr. Glover detailed the background on the Lemon Project
  + Short video from Memorial Dedication can be found at <https://youtu.be/kD5p-wgZn-o> .
* Approval of [Feb. 23 meeting minutes](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DJ1A-6V4E-hVcMoHOaHUBUm5yOeQxnmg-ykjeMf5hjc/edit?usp=sharing) (Dr. Peay)
* Jonsette provided a forum planning team update via [PPT](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1mOkLjcIUBkoDILCxETF5yBLf2FHeL8ZNIbWxFsp1Fg4/edit?usp=sharing)

# Action

* None

# Next steps

* Implementation of upcoming forums (Jonsette, Matt)