

William Jewell College
Racial Reconciliation Commission Meeting
February 27, 2023
Meeting Minute/Notes

Commissioners present: Donna Gardner, Owen Kerrigan, Mark Mathes, Clark Morris, Keith Pence, Robert Powers, Andy Pratt, Cecelia Robinson, David Sallee, Rodney Smith, Carmaletta Williams

Commissioners absent: Vincent Gauthier, Brynesha Griffin-Bey, Vernon Howard, Eileen Houston-Stewart, Chris McCabe

Guests present: Agatha Echenique, Rebecca Hamlett, Traci Parker-Gray

Rodney Smith convened the meeting at approximately 3:45 P.M.

1. Statement of Atonement presentation tour updates
 - a. Rodney Smith has presented the slide deck of recommendations to and solicited input from Administrative Council, Alumni Board of Governors, and Faculty.
 - b. Rodney Smith has a meeting scheduled with Staff Council on March 7, 2023.
 - c. Meetings with the Alumni of Color Advisory Group and Student Senate are to be determined. Owen Kerrigan provided suggestions on the best way to engage Student Senate.
 - d. Feedback
 - i. Faculty provided substantive feedback about the Commission's process and transparency.
 1. The Commission plans to share meeting dates with William Jewell faculty, staff, and students, so they can attend as guests.
 2. The Commission plans to record and post meeting minutes, so they are accessible to community members.
 3. At this time, the Commission will not be creating by-laws or governance documents.
 - ii. Faculty expressed concern about renaming the Racial Reconciliation Commission the Katherine "Aunt Kitty" Thompson Alexander Project: A Journey to Reconciliation, due to the pejorative connotation of "Aunt."
 1. Commissioners echoed this concern, including Mark Mathes, Rodney Smith, and Carmaletta Williams.
 2. All Commissioners in attendance voted to remove "Aunt" from the proposed name change: Donna Gardner, Owen Kerrigan, Mark Mathes, Clark Morris, Keith Pence, Robert Powers, Andy Pratt, Cecelia Robinson, David Sallee, Rodney Smith, Carmaletta Williams
2. Commission Recommendations
 - a. Commissioners discussed the process to finalize recommendations and share them with the appropriate parties.
 - b. Clark Morris and Rodney Smith clarified that the Commission's recommendations will be sent to the President of the College for consideration

and potential implementation. It is the role of the President to review the recommendations and proceed as they see fit.

- c. The Commission plans to finalize its initial recommendations at the April meeting. If anything needs to be presented to the Board of Trustees, then hopefully this can be done by their October 2023 meeting.
3. RRC Symposium Planning
 - a. The Commission is planning a series of events/lectures regarding the history and impact of slavery and racial discrimination.
 - b. It was suggested at the January 2023 meeting that Dr. Diane Mutti Burke be invited to present a lecture. Burke is a historian and professor at the University of Missouri – Kansas City specializing in the American South and the Civil War, especially the Kansas/Missouri border area.
 - c. Rodney Smith will initiate contact with Dr. Burke and inquire about an April lecture.
 4. Promotion of events
 - a. Dr. Vernon Howard is presenting the Black Freedom Struggle Symposium Series on campus during Jewell Time on Wednesdays through March.
 - b. Songs of Freedom: Music of African-American Composers, a concert of Concert Choir and Cardinal Voices, is scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on March 26 at St. James Catholic Church in Liberty.

Rodney Smith adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:58 P.M.