



THE RECTOR AND VISITORS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

June 4, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Buildings and Grounds Committee:

Robert D. Hardie, Chair	Barbara J. Fried
Whittington W. Clement, Vice Chair	Louis S. Haddad
Robert M. Blue	C. Evans Poston Jr.
Mark T. Bowles	James V. Reyes
Elizabeth M. Cranwell	James B. Murray Jr., Ex-officio
Thomas A. DePasquale	Mazzen S. Shalaby, Student Member

and

The Remaining Members of the Board:

L.D. Britt, M.D.	Babur B. Lateef, M.D.
Frank M. Conner III	Angela Hucles Mangano
John A. Griffin	Ellen M. Bassett, Faculty Member
Maurice A. Jones	

FROM: Susan G. Harris

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Buildings and Grounds Committee on June 4, 2021

The Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Visitors of the University of Virginia met, in open session, at 10:55 a.m. on Friday, June 4, 2021. Robert D. Hardie, Chair, presided.

Committee Members Present: James B. Murray Jr., Mark T. Bowles, Whittington W. Clement, Elizabeth M. Cranwell, Thomas A. DePasquale, Barbara J. Fried, Louis S. Haddad, C. Evans Poston Jr., James V. Reyes, and Mazzen S. Shalaby

Committee Members Absent: Robert M. Blue

L.D. Britt, M.D., Frank M. Conner III, John A. Griffin, Maurice A. Jones, Babur B. Lateef, M.D., Angela Hucles Mangano (via Zoom), and Ellen M. Bassett were also present.

Present as well were James E. Ryan, Jennifer Wagner Davis, K. Craig Kent, M.D., M. Elizabeth Magill, Margaret S. Grundy, Susan G. Harris, Timothy J. Heaphy, Donna P. Henry, Michael J. Citro, John C. Jeffries Jr., Megan K. Lowe, Mark M. Luellen, David W. Martel, Clark L. Murray, and Debra D. Rinker.

Presenters: Alice J. Raucher and Colette Sheehy

Mr. Hardie opened the meeting by reviewing the agenda. He spoke about the importance of the major capital projects cost review which is underway.

Ivy Gardens Redevelopment Master Plan

Alice Raucher, Architect of the University, presented the master plan for the Ivy Gardens area. The land is 17 acres that contains income-producing apartment units that the University plans to redevelop into a landscape-focused neighborhood that will better connect and enhance the adjacent Center for Politics and Miller Center and develop safer roads and pathways to North Grounds. The plan includes graduate residential units closer to North Grounds with a pedestrian bridge across Leonard Sandridge Road, plus mixed-use academic and commercial spaces. The density on the site will be improved by 150%.

On motion, duly seconded, the committee approved the following resolution:

IVY GARDENS REDEVELOPMENT MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the University has collaborated with Perkins & Will, the Office of the Architect, and the University of Virginia Foundation to develop a long-term strategy for redevelopment of the Ivy Gardens Apartments;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors approves the master plan for Ivy Gardens Redevelopment.

Replacement of the Hume Memorial Wall Inscription

Senior Vice President for Administration Colette Sheehy presented the plan for changing the Hume Memorial Wall. The recommendation of the University Committee on Naming and Memorials recommended referring to the memorial going forward as the “Whispering Wall”, replacing inscription-bearing block with blocks of a contrasting color, and including the story of the Hume Memorial as part of the digital contextualization of statues and memorials on Grounds.

On motion, duly seconded, the committee approved the following resolution:

REPLACEMENT OF HUME MEMORIAL WALL INSCRIPTION

WHEREAS, at the September 2020 meeting of the Board of Visitors, the Board formally requested that the University Committee on Names undertake to determine if rededication of the Hume Memorial Wall (also known as the “Whispering Wall”) is appropriate and feasible, or if the memorial should be removed, and make a final recommendation to the Board at a future meeting; and

WHEREAS, in 2021 the University Committee on Names was discontinued and President Ryan charged a newly constituted Naming and Memorials Committee with researching the matter and making a recommendation to the President and Board about the future disposition of the Hume Memorial; and

WHEREAS, the Naming and Memorials Committee completed their work on the future of the Hume Memorial and submitted a memo (Attachment A) to President Ryan in May 2021, concluding that “[I]t is not appropriate to continue to honor Frank Hume. A name adorning a monument on Grounds should be an emblem of our values. Those whom we choose to honor must reflect what we believe in and who we as a community aspire to be. Recognizing that the inscription on the Whispering Wall is commonly read as a “symbol of support for slavery and inequality” (BoV 09 20 Meeting Minutes, p. 11498) the Committee—following an interval of study, consultation, community comment, and reflection—respectfully recommends the wholesale replacement of any and all inscription-bearing blocks in the Whispering Wall with blank blocks of a suitable material, thereby removing the name and memorialization that they have carried;” and

WHEREAS, the Naming and Memorials Committee also noted that Frank Hume did not have a direct tie with the University; rather, his two sons, who were alumni, funded the construction of the Hume Memorial; and

WHEREAS, in recent years the University has removed or renamed a number of symbols of unequal treatment of racial minorities on Grounds, including changing the names of several buildings, removing the Confederate War Memorial plaques from the Rotunda, constructing the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers, and naming a residence hall for a formerly enslaved couple who lived and worked at the University;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors requests that the University, following receipt of all necessary approvals, remove the inscription on the Hume Memorial, hereinafter to be known as the “Whispering Wall”, replace the blocks containing the inscription with blocks of a contrasting color to mark the change, and include the story of the Hume Memorial as part of the digital contextualization of statues and memorials on Grounds; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, the design, color, and placement of new material on the Whispering Wall shall be decided collaboratively among the University Architect, the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and the chair of the Naming and Memorials Committee.

ATTACHMENT A

Naming and Memorials Committee Recommendation on the Frank Hume Memorial

Charged by the Board of Visitors to make a recommendation about the future disposition of the Hume Memorial, the Naming and Memorials Committee respectfully submits the following proposal to President Ryan and the Board.¹

¹ The relevant portion of the BoV resolution reads: WHEREAS, in recent years the University community has undertaken a reexamination of its past and has removed or renamed a number of symbols of unequal treatment of racial minorities on Grounds. Efforts have included changing the names of several buildings,

Mr. Frank Hume: Born in Culpeper (1843), Frank Hume was raised in Alexandria and Washington, DC. As the Civil War was starting, the eighteen-year-old Hume joined the Volunteer Southrons, remaining in the Confederate Army until the conclusion of the war. Hume was subsequently a successful businessman and was twice elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. He also served as a supervisor for the County of Alexandria and as a member of the Washington Board of Trade. Known in northern Virginia for his civic engagement and philanthropy, he donated land to build a school and playground in Arlington. The Hume School was closed in 1958; the building currently houses the Arlington Historical Museum.

Mr. Hume has no discernable connection to the University of Virginia other than the fact that, some twenty years after his death, his alumni sons John Edmund Norris Hume and Howard Hume donated funds to the University to erect a bench with a curved wall and fountain honoring their father. Because more than 75 years have passed since a structure was named for him as a consequence of philanthropy, it is in keeping with established UVA naming protocols to review the status of that naming and how it accords with the University's values today.

The Hume Memorial: Following approval of the gift by the Board of Visitors, Edmund S. Campbell, UVA Dean of Art and Architecture, created the design for the fountain and bench and in 1937 commissioned the Vermont Marble company to execute it. The structure was originally sited in the north portico of Monroe Hall. In 1988, when Monroe Hall was enlarged, the structure was disassembled and crated for storage. Several years later, the fountain and bench with its whispering wall became the focal point of the Monroe Newcomb Plaza. That site has long been a place of student activity (e.g., "tabling" by student groups and informal socializing).

The Committee's Recommendation: The Naming and Memorials Committee fully agrees with the Board of Visitors that it is not appropriate to continue to honor Frank Hume. A name adorning a monument on Grounds should be an emblem of our values. Those whom we choose to honor must reflect what we believe in and who we as a community aspire to be. Recognizing that the inscription on the Whispering Wall is commonly read as "a symbol of support for slavery and inequality" (BoV 09 20 Meeting Minutes, p.11498), the Committee—following an interval of study, consultation, community comment, and reflection—respectfully recommends the wholesale replacement of any and all inscription-

removing the Confederate War Memorial plaques from the Rotunda, constructing the Memorial to Enslaved Laborers, and naming a residence hall for a formerly enslaved couple who lived and worked at the University; and

WHEREAS, the inscription on the Whispering Wall celebrating the Confederacy is a symbol of support for slavery and inequality;

RESOLVED, the Board of Visitors requests that the University Committee on Names undertake to determine if rededication of the Hume Memorial Wall is appropriate and feasible, or if the memorial should be removed, and make a final recommendation to the Board at a future meeting (09 20 meeting, p.11498).

bearing blocks in the Whispering Wall with blank blocks of a suitable material, thereby removing the name and memorialization that they have carried.²

In making this recommendation, however, we in no way wish wholly to erase the history of the University's original decision and its subsequent tacit ratification over a span of many years. In removing the inscription, we concomitantly affirm our commitment not to silence the history of UVA decision making that led to the creation and perpetuation of a memorial to Frank Hume.

Accordingly, the Committee further recommends that replacement blocks of a contrasting color be used to mark the permanent change that has been made to this structure. (At the request of the Committee, a rendering of this design is to be supplied to the Board through the Office of the University Architect.) The University should not remove the inscription on the Whispering Wall without materially signaling to future generations our need as a community to reassess our understandings and to express our values as we work for a more just and equitable society.³ We must continue to interrogate and grapple with our past for the sake of a better future.

In addition, we encourage the nascent Digital Contextualization Working Group to tell the story of what was once the Hume Memorial in such a way that members of the UVA community and visitors to Grounds can learn about and, crucially, learn from the history of this structure and the catena of decisions that that led to the memorialization of Frank Hume at our University over the course of more than eight decades.

It is our hope that the newly configured and repurposed fountain and bench, with its whispering wall stripped of all memorializing inscription, together with the landscaped plaza and surrounding environment on which it stands, will be a place that fosters authentic community, promotes nuanced and complex historical understandings, and occasions debate. It is our hope that this important site will stimulate critical thinking about the value-laden pedagogical power of what and how we remember—and why that matters for our aspirations as a university community committed to fostering the common good.

Our aim, then, in making this recommendation to President Ryan and the Board is neither to erase history nor to change it, but to enliven present and future generations—whose lives, like ours, are invested in our ambitious educational enterprise—to the circumstances under which a significant feature of the built environment on our Grounds was created and named. We seek to inculcate a deeper understanding of why history matters to our University culture and to the values we publicly espouse.

² The text of the inscription reads: "A MEMORIAL TO THE HONORABLE FRANK HUME BORN CULPEPPER JULY 21, 1843 DIED WASHINGTON, D.C. JULY 18, 1906 A DEVOTED VIRGINIAN WHO SERVED HIS NATIVE STATE IN CIVIL WAR AND LEGISLATIVE HALL"

³ The Committee's recommendation has involved wide community consultation via emails, a web portal with a community comment feature (<https://namingandmemorials.president.virginia.edu/>), telephone conversations with concerned individuals and representatives of organizations, and a formal public listening session. We are grateful to all those who shared their thoughtful comments with us.

Financials: Estimates from the Office of the University Architect suggest the total cost of removing the blocks above the bench and replacing them in contrasting stone would be approximately \$430,000. (The estimate for removal of the monument and requisite modifications to the plaza on which it had stood is a figure between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000.) We are grateful to Alice Raucher and her team for providing this information.

Sequelae: The Virginia Art and Architecture Review Board (AARB) would necessarily review any BoV resolution to alter the Hume Memorial because it stands on property owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia. (We should also note that the proposed modification of the memorial would not require excavation; accordingly, archaeologists would not be consulted.)

Were our recommendation accepted, all future University publications, whether printed or electronic, should henceforth refer to the site as the Whispering Wall. The name “Hume Memorial” should no longer to be used.

Respectfully submitted,

The Naming and Memorials Committee

Rusty Conner
Kevin Gaines
Claudrena Harold
Jessica Harris
Meredith Jenkins
John Jeffries
Mazzen Shalaby
Michael Suarez, Chair

6 May 2021

2021 Major Capital Plan

Ms. Sheehy presented the 2021 major capital plan. The \$3.2B program a year ago is now \$2.04B. The reduction is because some major projects have been completed and other projects have been deferred. Ms. Sheehy also reported on the planning studies underway that include an Athletics/North Parking garage, Grounds plan update, some projects coming out of the Tech Talent Investment Program, utility/infrastructure matters, and on the UVA Health side, a clinical lab building and some work that is needed to replace parts of the hospital façade that are failing.

On motion, duly seconded, the committee approved the following resolution:

2021 MAJOR CAPITAL PLAN FOR THE ACADEMIC DIVISION, UVA HEALTH, AND THE COLLEGE AT WISE

WHEREAS, in accordance with the University’s capital planning process, major capital projects are vetted by the Space Leadership Committee and executive leadership, as

well as by appropriate committees of the Board of Visitors, to ensure alignment with institutional priorities; and

WHEREAS, the University proposes adding three projects to the Academic Division's Major Capital Plan: Democracy Institute, Massie Road Utility Extension, and Tech Talent Investment Program Phase I; and

WHEREAS, at the request of the project sponsors the University proposes removing two projects from the Academic Division's Major Capital Plan and one project from UVA Health's Major Capital Plan: Alderman Road Residence Hall – Building 7, Pinn Hall Nobel Laureate Gallery, and Eye Center;

RESOLVED, the 2021 Major Capital Plan for the Academic Division, UVA Health, and the College at Wise is approved.

Committee Discussion

A. George Rogers Clark Statue

Ms. Sheehy said they are prepared to remove the statue, relocate, store it, and repair the site. The cost is anticipated to be around \$400,000.

B. Major Capital Projects Cost Review/Assessment

Ms. Sheehy reviewed the cost review conducted by HKA Global. They have completed the first two stages of the project. Early observations include no glaring gaps in project governance, good manuals, forms and templates, and a good relationship between the Office of the Architect and Facilities Management fosters a holistic approach to capital project delivery from planning through construction. Next steps include interviews with external stakeholders, a deep dive into cost data, benchmarking costs against peers, and identifying opportunities for improvement.

C. Sustainability

Extensive work has been done in stewardship, engagement, and discovery. UVA received a gold certification from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, one of only 50 institutions worldwide. Other initiatives include student internships in sustainability. Ms. Sheehy said the Governor has issued an executive order on single use plastics that includes single use water bottles and disposable plastic bags with a deadline of July 21. Aramark is working statewide to change practices.

D. Student Health and Wellness Center

The Student Health and Wellness Center is 48 days away from beneficial occupancy.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

SGH:ddr

These minutes have been posted to the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors website:

<http://bov.virginia.edu/committees/182>