

April 7, 2014

Present

Vanessa Christman, Pensby Center

Jerry Berenson, Chief Administrative Officer

Angie Sheets, Residential Life

Alexis De La Rosa, Class of 2015

Khadijah Seay, Class of 2016

Danielle Cadet, Class of 2016

Jessica Bernal, Class of 2017

Iliana Dominguez-Franco, Class of 2016

Joseph Marra, Campus Architect

Cynthia Washington, Associate Director for Affinity and Clubs, Alumnae Association

Nia Turner, Class of 2005

Linda Susan-Beard, English, Africana Studies

Orsola Capovilla-Searle, Class of 2015

Absent

Monica Mercado, Greenfield Digital Center/Library/History

Modupe Olufemi, Class of 2017

Alexis McDonald, Class of 2017

Leslie Castrejon, Class of 2015

Chantille Kennedy, Class of 2015

Sasha De La Cruz, Class of 2015

Esteniolla Maitre, Class of 2015

Faatimah Jafiq, Class of 2015

Angel Suero, Class of 2016

Agenda

- The Administration's Role
- The New Space
- The Future of the Committee
- Archiving
- Updates

Notes

- We need to make decisions and be as decisive as we can tonight
- Putting out our voices

- The Administration's Role
  - What is the fate of the old Perry House? What does the timeline look like? What will happen to the land? Who makes that call?
    - The old house will be demolished, we thought that would be the fate from the beginning
    - An investment of \$2 million would have been needed to renovate the house
    - Other houses on campus, e.g. Cartref, West House, will probably in the same place as Perry
    - Will probably be torn down sometime in July
      - Permit needs to be obtained
      - Make sure that all the hazardous material is removed before the house is torn down
        - There's no floor in the building now
    - Senior Staff makes the call (about the house being torn down)
      - Make sure people are on board or have any other ideas
  - What will happen to the grounds?
    - It will probably become grass
    - The neighbors would probably have objected to renovate the building for other purposes
    - Don't expect that they will ever build anything on that space
    - If we did build something someday it would probably be closer to New Gulph road
  - How can or should the administration/college help in establishing Perry House as a cultural center?
    - Where is the question coming from?
      - Admin/College acknowledging that real work happens there
      - Not just a gathering space
      - Respecting the space and official acknowledgement
      - Respecting the significance
        - Whether is it reactive or proactive
        - Intellectual and residential life on the campus
      - Respecting that Perry is important to our community
    - Financial backing/support?
      - Dean Balthazar has requested some funding for next fiscal year
      - Some additional funding has been requested
        - Budgeting has to get passed by Board of Trustees at the April 25, 2015 meeting
      - Sustained funding
        - What should that process look like?
        - Where should that money reside?
        - Complete onus of trying to figure out where to get money should not be dependent upon the students

- This might an opportunity for alumnae to also maintain funding moving forward
          - This issue has been discussed with Dean Balthazar & Budgets Committee
          - As we have events, we will be in a stronger place to request budgeting moving forward
- Diversity Leadership Group
  - Are we in a new dimension where we're doing something proactive rather than reactive?
  - Can this be apart of the intellectual life and residential life?
  - What is President Cassidy's role
  - Recognizing that the space is for current and future students
    - Current students and future students articulating what the space is going to be
- Communication to the committee and from the committee
  - Our role in communicating the commitment of the Board of Trustees & President
  - Hopefully the blog can be a space for that
    - Being clear and intentional in showing what's important to us (the college)

### The New Space

- Which part of Perry House the Cultural Center
  - Public Space vs Private Space
  - Is it just the library
  - Dorm Leadership Team
    - Making sure teas and DLT are catering to the
  - In the past (from Nia)
    - If you were the Black Cultural Center Head you coordinated the library
      - Didn't have anything to do with the residential space
      - Center = a cultural space and an intellectual space
      - Schomburg Center in New York
        - microcosm, what Perry could be one day
- How do students want support from alumnae/i
  - Symposium
  - Professor that researches black students experiences at women's college
  - Speakers
  - Can't really come up with programming for the space before seeing the space (size, dimensions, capacity, etc.)
- Who will be in charge of checking in and maintaining?
  - At Swarthmore there is a black cultural center advisor?

- Is it Angie Sheets and ResLife?
    - Is it the Pensby Center
- How to maintain the cultural center
  - In terms of having social events and how to take care of the elements that make them a cultural center
    - Like the space to be treated and respected as a cultural center versus a social center
      - e.g. having a party in the same space as lecture hall
      - there will be tension between it being a residential space and a public space
      - what is the impact going to be on the people that are living there?
        - e.g. the noise traveling
        - open space
    - Hours of operation
  - Special Collections
    - Concerns about humidity, light, length that they can be displayed, what can be brought into Perry House
    - Metal and stone objects easier to display
    - Cost of cases
- Naming the Space
  - Africana faculty talked about this
    - They are in unison about a name
      - **Jessie Redmon Fauset House**
        - to give her a space she was deprived of
        - important in the Harlem Renaissance
        - novelist
        - exclusion/inclusion
        - celebrating culture
  - If everyone in this room is on board with this, do we need to present it to the President's Cabinet?
    - Would check in with Kim
  - Who do you need to get permission from to name a building after someone?
    - Ask her estate (Professor Beard researching this)
  - Nostalgia for the name of Perry
    - nostalgia about what happened there vs the name
  - Alum Perspective?
    - People are referring to Perry as Perry 2
    - Name hasn't really been discussed or posed to the BALC because of other events such as the walkthrough
  - Admissions & Tours
    - What would introducing Perry House in a tour look like?
    - Acknowledging the good and bad of BMC's history

- BMC messed up but this is how we're working through it
- Who gets to decide who lives there in the future?
- Who is the cultural center for?
  - Africana has some strong notions about who the space is for
    - Africana are all isolated in different departments
    - Same goes for LALIPC
    - People counting on this space being an anchor
  - Perry House as a place for people to get a particular type of education
    - A learning opportunity and intellectual space for a campus that is very far behind in its learning for things outside of Europe
  - Being intentional about using the phrase cultural center and the implications of that culture, while recognizing that we are primarily representing 2 diasporas
  - Tension of exploratory learning bordering on intrusiveness
  - Not just a space for people to chill with their friends
    - e.g. the library isn't your alternative Canaday or Carpenter
  - Come into the space (the cultural center space) with purpose
    - this is a place to engage
    - students (general Bryn Mawr community members) have been asking if they will have access to the building, but if they do will they use it?
  - Open House
  - There is a physical space but the community is really in the people
    - Who admin, faculty, students, etc base how they view the space is based off of how they interact with smaller people
- The Future of the Committee
  - Vanessa is still okay with being convener of this group, but is aware of how the committee should move forward
- Archiving
- Updates/Moving Forward
  - Smaller working group to come to Communications/Launch meeting to help plan and prep for May 2, event.

#### Building Updates from Joseph Marra

- The flooring from old Perry will be included in the library of the new building