

Hollins University

## Hollins Digital Commons

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WRL: Library Student Advisory Board Minutes

Wyndham Robertson Library

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4-2019

### LSAB Minutes April 2019

Maryke Barber

Rebecca L. Seipp

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Attending: Lilly, Mairwen, Rebecca, Maryke, Faith, Madison.

**Yearbooks** – Rebecca and Maryke offered a summary and answered questions about the recent events around the removal of several yearbooks from the Hollins Digital Commons. Briefly, President Lawrence decided the yearbooks needed to be removed until educational materials were developed on the portrayal of students in blackface. After several days of discussions, she ordered the library to remove several issues of the *Spinster*. The library supports the addition of educational materials, but advises strongly against removal of the yearbooks because removing publicly available materials from the historical record of the university is censorship. As such, it is a violation of the American Library Association’s Code of Ethics, as well as the guiding principles of the American Association of University Professors. Several of our professional associations have issued statements in support of the library’s position in this case.

The President issued a statement of her intentions for the removal, which was answered by a statement from the library and the Hollins Working Group on Slavery. The Working Group was tasked by the President with developing educational materials, but had also strongly advised against the removal of the yearbooks. The library and the Working Group are hoping to work with the President to resolve this in a way which honors both the need to educate anyone reading the *Spinster* today about the history of blackface as a racist practice, while leaving the historical record (i.e. the University’s digital archives) intact.

**Table-sitting for birthday week** – Rebecca is arranging for table-sitting to celebrate the library’s birthday week. One day will be dedicated to LSAB: what would you like to giveaway and/or promote? Suggestions included putting a schedule online for folks to sign up, and using the prize wheel ☺

**May Meeting:** Do we want to have dinner & some kind of celebration for the end of the semester? Yes! We can celebrate the seniors graduating – Lilly, Madison C, who else? - early in May so as not to get into exams.

**De-Stress at the Library** – several LSAB members have helped brainstorm a plan to transform the Hollins Room into a meditative space during exam week. There will be tea, pillows, plants, yoga mats, coloring, puzzles, meditation suggestions, sticky notes for affirmations, and more. Thank you for all of your suggestions!! Maryke will create an online sign up in case you’d like to help:

- Put up flyers in the dorms
- Set up (reading day, in the morning)
- Offer a guided practice (once a day, between dinner and evening exams)
- Check the room, straighten up, re-fill teabags etc.....

**Upcoming Events** – Carol Moldaw will be at the library to do a poetry workshop on Friday; there will be Write-in April 24<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday).

**Beholding** – Rebecca led a meditative exercise called ‘Beholding’ in the Reading Room.