

TO: Jill Tiefenthaler, President

FROM: Tricia Waters, on behalf of the Slocum Legacy Committee

RE: Committee Report and Recommendations

Date: 5/10/18

The Slocum Legacy Committee was appointed by President Tiefenthaler following renewed interest, in the fall of 2017, in allegations that William F. Slocum engaged in sexual misconduct toward employees, students, and others while he was president of Colorado College (1888-1917). In the fall of 2017, Jessy Randall, Curator and Archivist of Colorado College Library Special Collections gave a presentation to members of the Feminist and Gender Studies affiliated faculty and staff and members of the Title IX Office after uncovering additional details of the allegations in a bound document in the Colorado College, Special Collections archives. The Title IX Officer, Professor Gail Murphy-Geiss, generated a petition on behalf of concerned CC community members, which was sent to President Tiefenthaler and the Board of Trustees, requesting that Slocum Hall be renamed in light of the clear and compelling evidence supporting the allegations. One hundred and thirteen faculty and staff and three alumni signed the petition that was taken up by the President and the Board of Trustees at the February 2018 board meeting.

After a careful review of historical materials generated by Professor Joe Dunn of Converse College, Professor Robert Loevy, Archivist and Curator Jessy Randall, and the late Professor John Fauvel of the Open University, the Board of Trustees unanimously agreed to rescind President Slocum's honorary degree and remove his name from Slocum Residence Hall and Slocum Commons. The board issued a public statement to that effect and the residence hall and commons bearing his name were renamed South Hall and South Commons.

In April 2018, President Tiefenthaler charged a special committee to discuss the legacy of President Slocum, considering both his sexual misconduct and his significant contributions to the college. The Slocum Legacy Committee was comprised of four faculty members [Professors Susan Ashley, Michael Grace, Nadia Guessous, Tricia Waters (chair)], three students (Caleigh Cassidy, Ariel Fillion, Noah Hirshon), Paul Buckley (Assistant Vice-President and Butler Center Director), Trustee Jerome DeHerrera, George Eckhardt (Campus Planner), with assistance from Hanna Bautz (Special Projects Coordinator).

Background

Committee members reviewed a number of archival documents related to this matter, including materials from Professors Joe Dunn, John Fauvel, Robert Loevy, James Park, Board of Trustees statements from 1918 and 2018, American Association of University Professors' 1919 findings on the Dean Parsons' dismissal, and additional documents from newspapers and

administrative archives. Curator and Archivist Jessy Randall presented the committee with a summary of President Slocum's accomplishments as well as archival materials relevant to the allegations of sexual misconduct. Committee members reviewed these as well as materials related to the 1953 naming of Slocum Hall/Slocum Commons. The chair gained additional background information by consulting with longstanding faculty member, Professor Owen Cramer and with Marj Webster, a descendant of Willis Armstrong (Member of the Board of Trustees during the first half of the 20th Century). Committee members also reviewed reports from committees at other higher education institutions that have confronted histories of systemic racism, and other forms of oppression.

Slocum Legacy Committee's Charge

A number of guiding questions framed the charge of the Slocum Legacy Committee and this document details our responses to each of those questions. In addressing these concerns, we made a distinction between artifacts of President Slocum's legacy that are primarily historical (e.g., portrait in the hall of presidents on the second floor of Spencer Center), and those that are primarily honorific (e.g., portrait in the landing of Palmer Hall).

How should the college address the change in name of the facilities at the corner of Nevada and Cache la Poudre?

The committee agreed unanimously that the history of the building formerly known as Slocum Hall/Slocum Commons not contain a placard or other marker indicating the reason for the name change. Committee members felt that to note this history in the building would cast a pall over the building that, particularly after it is permanently renamed, would be most unwelcome. Further, students on the committee felt that to note the history of Slocum's legacy in the public area of a student living space would be insensitive to current and future students living in the building who may have been victims of sexual harassment or sexual violence.

In lieu of a permanent placard in South Hall/South Commons, we propose a temporary installation, perhaps in the Coburn Gallery of the Worner Center, that would be somewhat narrow in focus and that would describe the recent decision to remove Slocum's name from Slocum Hall/Slocum Commons in light of the broader cultural #MeToo movement. This, #CCToo, approach would detail the socio-historical forces that culminated in Slocum's resignation and would highlight the voices of the women who came forward with sexual allegations at the time as well as those who amplified their voices so that action was taken. The project could include photographic and descriptive evidence of Slocum's positive accomplishments toward creating a sustainable future for the college, but the focus would be on the archival evidence surrounding his resignation and subsequent dismissal of one of his most trenchant critics (Dean Parsons), as well as the faculty and community response. This project is especially critical to ensuring that this pivotal piece of the college's history not be obscured behind a narrative of Slocum's legacy that privileges his accomplishments over sexual behaviors that were deemed egregious then, and remain so, now. It is especially timely for our students to learn about the complexities involved in the college's response to this past

allegation. It will demonstrate how those in marginalized positions in the past found effective ways to bring about substantive change. The installation would also exemplify ways in which a careful and critical re-examination of the past can be undertaken to inform current practice. A ceremony opening the installation could involve honoring the bravery of the women who came forward as well as the members of the CC community at the time who stood in solidarity with them. The committee discussed the possibility of combining this effort with the People's History of CC project, though it could stand on its own.

Following the temporary installation, members of the committee recommend that a more permanent display be housed in Tutt Library Special Collections. This project could be used by CC classes and research students and would include a digital, interactive archive that could be modified as more information becomes available. The committee suggests that Jessy Randall, college archivist might work in conjunction with a postdoctoral fellow, historiographer, and/or senior thesis students as collaborators on these projects.

How should the fact that Slocum's honorary degree was rescinded be noted?

The committee suggests that in historical records where honors related to the college's presidents are noted, award and rescindment of Slocum's honorary degree should be noted. This information should be included in temporary and Tutt Library installations as well.

Should the portrait of President Slocum currently hanging in Palmer Hall be relocated?

Yes. The committee suggests that this portrait be removed and preserved in an appropriate, non-public, repository this summer. We do not believe that the reason for the removal should be noted in Palmer Hall.

Should the monument with the quote from President Slocum that is currently inscribed in stone on the Tiger Trail be retained?

The committee is unanimous in its desire to remove the inscription from this monument and from other locations in the college where it appears. Members of the committee would like to see a new inscription installed, selected in consultation with SAAC (Student Athlete Advisory Committee) and the athletics department. One student athlete on the committee indicated that the monument is an important pre-game gathering place for CC athletes but offered that the sentiment inscribed in this stone should reflect the values and aspirations of CC students.

How should President Slocum's legacy be represented in other places that are not honorific?

The committee is in full agreement that, in those instances where an historical progression of presidents is either listed or depicted, President Slocum's name (or image) should be retained in its current form. In official college documents or depictions that detail honors (e.g., the

awarding of an honorary degree, the naming of a building), the award dates as well as the rescindment dates should be included.

Committee Suggestions for Renaming South Hall and South Commons

In recent years, many other higher education institutions have confronted their own histories of systemic bias (see OneDrive for detailed reports from Yale, Princeton, George Washington University and others). In most of these cases, the decision whether or not to rename a building or monument was in question. While that decision has already been made at Colorado College, our review of those materials suggest some points for consideration.

The committee recommends that the Board of Trustees and campus community engage in a *transparent process* as it considers the new name for this building. We recognize that *this is an important moment in the college's history* – one that presents an opportunity to consider, more broadly, those voices and ideals that have contributed to the development of this institution, but which may have been obscured or underrepresented. Some members of the committee suggest that rather than name the building after a person, we use it *to reinforce a community goal or ideal*. Others enjoin the college to *take more time (three to four years) for a more thorough review of our history*. All committee members are in agreement that *collaboration with representatives* from across all constituencies at the college would foster dialogue and community and would increase a sense of shared mission.

We are grateful to have been invited to consider how the legacy of President Slocum should be represented at Colorado College and we invite any questions you may have about this report.