

BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE JAMES MONROE LAW – OFFICE MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL LIBRARY

October 17, 2012
Room 412, Lee Hall, University of Mary Washington

MEETING MINUTES DRAFT

Call to Order and Welcome

Lunch was served at 12:00 p.m. Chairman Corbin called the meeting to order at 12:37 PM. The following members of the Board were present: Ms. Erma Baker, UMW Assistant Vice President of Business Services, Dr. Porter Blakemore, UMW Associate Professor of History and American Studies, Mr. Peter Broadbent, Col. Arthur Buswell, Ms. Mary R. Corbin, Mr. Scott Harris, Director of the James Monroe Museum, Mr. Richard Hurley, UMW President, Mr. Justin Logsdon, Mr. James Lucier, Ms. Mary Grace Lucier, Mr. Patrick McSweeney, Ms. Barbara Micou, Ms. Helen Marie Taylor, Mr. G. William Thomas, Jr., Ms. Rita Thompson and UMW Rector Pamela White. Chairman Corbin welcomed everyone and introduced the new UMW Rector, Judge Pamela White. Others present were Dr. Martin Wilder, UMW Chief of Staff, Dr. Richard Finkelstein, UMW Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Ms. Cathleen Romine, Office Manager of the James Monroe Museum. The attendees introduced themselves and commented briefly on their backgrounds. Absent were Mr. Roger Braxton, Jr., Mr. Kerry Johnson and Mr. Charles McDaniel.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Corbin referred to minutes of the 2 July 2012 Regents meeting that were e-mailed to members previously and provided in print form. She asked if there were any corrections to the minutes; none were offered. Mrs. Taylor asked that the minutes be read aloud. Chairman Corbin asked the pleasure of the Board concerning the request due to time constraints because several members would need to depart by 2:00 p.m. for another scheduled meeting. Mrs. Taylor asked that allowance for reading the minutes be made for future meetings. Mr. Broadbent moved that the Regents agree to suspend with reading of the minutes for this meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Taylor and passed unanimously. Mr. McSweeney then moved for the acceptance of the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Thompson and approved by all present.

Museum Staff Report

JMMML Director Scott Harris circulated a report (attached hereto as Appendix A) with an overview of the Museum's activities since the last meeting. Mr. Harris summarized and commented upon each section of his report. Discussing the successful Fredericksburg Welsh Festival, he thanked Chairman Corbin for sponsorship by UMW Arts in the Community of the trolley service between the UMW campus and downtown Fredericksburg. Mr. Harris made one addition to the budget section of his report, noting that Museum operating expenses for FY 12 were 10% less than the previous fiscal year.

The floor was opened for questions following the Director's report. Mr. Hurley stated his understanding that the James Monroe Museum does not have sufficient space to exhibit many of the artifacts in its collection. He noted that UMW is considering uses for Seacobeck Dining Hall once a new student center is constructed, and that Mr. Harris and others are developing concepts for repurposing Seacobeck as a

museum and arts center. At Mr. Hurley's request, Mr. Harris briefly described some of the artifacts that the Museum might exhibit in such a facility.

Mr. McSweeney inquired about the upcoming James Monroe Conference at UMW. Mr. Harris replied that planning was still underway, and that he would ask Dr. Dan Preston, Editor of the Papers of James Monroe, to report on the conference at the next Regents meeting. Mr. Harris said the conference will be held October 18-19, 2013. The annual James Monroe lecture will be the ending session of the conference. Mr. Thomas offered information about a recent conference at Montpelier that focused on the relationship between Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. He suggested inviting Montpelier, Ash Lawn and Monticello to participate in the James Monroe conference. Mr. Lucier suggested that the conference planners contact C-Span to record the program. Mrs. Taylor asked where people would stay overnight. Mr. Harris responded that conference attendees would be provided with information on Fredericksburg area hotels.

Old Business

Rector White reported that approval of the Board of Regents bylaws is on the agenda for the November 2012 meeting of the UMW Board of Visitors. She also noted that the BOV considers the James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library an important part of the University, a fact reinforced by the attention paid to the Museum in a consultant report prepared for UMW's forthcoming accreditation review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

Rector White then reported that the Board of Visitors of the University of Mary Washington approved the request by the James Monroe Memorial Foundation (JMMF) to obtain a photographic copy of a painting (accession number JM76.17, described as the forged portrait of James Monroe) in the collection of the James Monroe Museum. The resolution and the terms of approval are stipulated in the memorandum requesting this action (attached hereto as Appendix B). Mr. Thomas thanked Rector White on behalf of the JMMF.

Chairman Corbin next asked Mr. Harris to present for consideration two resolutions of appreciation from the Board of Regents authorized at the July 2012 meeting, for retiring Ash Lawn-Highland Executive Director Carolyn Coggin Holmes and former UMW Rector Daniel Kenneth Steen (attached hereto as Appendix C). Mr. Broadbent moved adoption of the resolutions. The motion was seconded by Mr. McSweeney and approved unanimously.

Mr. Logsdon inquired about the status of a JMMF request made at the last Regents meeting for copies of the Museum's exhibit panels to use on a Monroe Birthplace Timeline Trail in Westmoreland County. Mr. Harris reported that he had spoken to Mr. Norm Risavi, the Westmoreland County Administrator, who provided background information on the Timeline Trail and indicated interest in working with the Museum staff on development of the trail's interpretive markers. Mr. Harris will have more to report on this matter at the next meeting of the Regents.

Mr. Logsdon also asked about the Museum staff's internal self-study that will be conducted utilizing the American Association for State and Local History's STEPS system. Mr. Harris replied that the process had not yet begun, but would start within the current fiscal year, continuing at least into the next year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Broadbent reported on the activities of the Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission, including the *OpSail Virginia* event. Books, films, re-enactments and maritime tours are planned. There will be a legacy symposium at Fort Monroe in 2014, and the Society of the War 1812 in Virginia has had a new volume published about the burial sites of soldiers who served in the war.

Mr. Thomas reported that the annual James Monroe birthday ceremony at the Monroe Birthplace in Westmoreland County will take place on Saturday, April 27, 2013, starting at 10:00 AM. He invited President Hurley to be the principal speaker, and said that the Board of Regents would also receive invitations. Mr. Thomas invited everyone present to the annual wreath laying ceremony at James Monroe's tomb in Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery which will take place Sunday, April 28 at 11:00 AM.

Mr. Thomas also requested that the Board invite Dr. Daniel Preston to future meetings of the Board, citing the value of the research done by the Paper's project and its importance to the mission of the James Monroe Law Office – Museum and Memorial Library. He also thanked President Hurley and the University of Mary Washington for keeping the museum collection intact and offered the assistance of the Board of Regents.

Mrs. Taylor remarked that Monroe Park in Richmond is in some disrepair. She would like to see a statue commemorating the Louisiana Purchase there. Mr. Thomas added that it would be advantageous to partner with other educational institutions such as Virginia Commonwealth University to tap their student sculptors and various other resources.

Col. Buswell reported on the forthcoming Monroe Birthplace Timeline Trail, which will be funded by TEA-21 transportation enhancement grants totaling over half a million dollars. Mr. Hurley asked for clarification on which entity received the federal enhancement funds. Col. Buswell explained that Westmoreland County received a grant this year for \$371,000 and also took over use of an \$184,000 TEA-21 grant awarded in 2007 to the Town of Colonial Beach for construction of a bicycle/pedestrian trail from the James Monroe Birthplace site to Monroe Creek pier. The County is reviewing the scope of work and will administer the project. Mrs. Taylor suggested looking at properties like the Montpelier Historic Trail for reference. The JMMF is working on plans to build a replica home on the site.

Dr. Finkelstein thanked the Board of Regents for inviting him and remarked how pleased the College of Arts and Sciences is that the planned Monroe Conference next year will complement and promote and the educational mission of the University.

Mrs. Taylor described the bookplate endowment program begun by museum founder Lawrence Hoes and asked that it be revived. She requested that the topic be put on the agenda of the next Regents meeting. Mr. Broadbent agreed to review the specifics of the program. Mr. Harris will report on this matter.

Mrs. Taylor shared that the frame formerly used to exhibit the Rembrandt Peale portrait of James Monroe had been restored and that the portrait, currently on loan to the Virginia Executive Mansion, would be put back into the frame with the support and encouragement of Governor and Mrs. McDonnell. Mr. Harris explained that the painting will remain in the frame constructed for the loan. Mr. Hurley asked Mrs. Taylor to clarify who owns the frame. She replied that it was purchased by her husband and herself and loaned to the JMMF. Mr. Hurley stated that the University is not willing to place property owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia in a frame it does not own, and that he would

defer to the professional judgment of Mr. Harris in the matter. Mrs. Taylor expressed her opposition to the University's stance and her disagreement with the opinion of the museum director as it pertains to the frame. Mr. Hurley noted that the University and Mrs. Taylor would have to agree to disagree on the matter, and that he would explain the University's position to the Governor if necessary. No action relative to this matter was taken by the Board of Regents.

Mr. Thomas expressed disappointment that the Board of Regents was not identified as a sponsor of the annual James Monroe Lecture held September 24, 2012. He contended that the Board of Regents was a founder of the lecture series. There was discussion about the precise meaning of sponsorship. Dr. Blakemore suggested that the Board be given credit for partnering to initiate the lecture program at the next event.

Date for Next Meeting

The next Board of Regents meeting will be held during the fourth quarter of the University of Mary Washington's fiscal year (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013) as required by the Board of Regents By-Laws. Therefore, the previously scheduled date of March 20, 2013 will be changed. Members will be notified of the new date as soon as possible.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairman Corbin thanked everyone for attending. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. McSweeney, seconded by Col. Buswell and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Col. Arthur Buswell, Secretary, Board of Regents (with clerical support from Cathleen Romine, Office Manager of the James Monroe Museum)