

Baylor University Board of Regents
Resolution on the Final Report of the Commission on Historic Campus
Representations
February 19, 2021

WHEREAS, on June 25, 2020, the Baylor University Board of Regents unanimously passed a resolution acknowledging that a number of the Baptist leaders and their congregants who began moving into Texas in the 1830s, primarily from the southern half of the United States, owned enslaved persons and held racial views common in that era. These early Baptists eventually included Baylor's three founders – Judge R.E.B. Baylor, Rev. James Huckins and Rev. William M. Tryon – most members of its initial board of trustees, and several early leaders of the institution. During Baylor's infancy, a number of University leaders and prominent individuals connected to the institution supported Confederate causes and engaged in the fight to preserve the institution of slavery both during and following the Civil War, including some serving as members of the Confederacy's armed forces.

WHEREAS, in tandem with this acknowledgment, the Board's resolution on that date established the Commission on Historic Campus Representations at Baylor University, a 26-member committee comprised of individuals representing Baylor alumni, Regents, faculty, students, and staff, to provide guidance on presenting Baylor's history as the University continues working to foster an environment through which racial equality is inextricably linked to its Christian mission and in which students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of color know they are valued and loved throughout the Baylor community, both on campus and in all reaches of the Baylor Family.

WHEREAS, having been charged with reviewing the historical context of the University and its connection with all statues, monuments, buildings, and other aspects of the campus in reference to their physical location, placement, and naming and with providing observations for consideration by the Administration and Board of Regents, the members of the Commission on Historic Campus Representations faithfully undertook their intensive work throughout the summer and fall and, on December 20, 2020, presented the Commission's final report to the Chair of the Board of Regents and the President of the University.

WHEREAS, in recognition of the extraordinary leadership, dedication, and selfless service of the Commission's three co-chairs marked by humility, discernment, and prayer, the Board of Regents and Administration extend their sincerest appreciation to Regent Alicia D.H. Monroe, M.D.; Dean of Music Gary Mortenson, D.M.A.; and Associate Athletics Director Walter Abercrombie for their care in fostering an

environment in which the voices and thoughts of all 26 members of the Commission were thoughtfully considered and reflected in this gift to Baylor.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Baylor University Board of Regents officially accepts the final report of the Commission on Historic Campus Representations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents charges the University Administration under the direction of President Linda A. Livingstone, Ph.D., to develop a proposed action plan regarding the Commission's recommendations, as feasible and in accordance with existing Board policies and procedures. The Administration will provide a briefing for Board consideration and action in accordance with existing Board policies and procedures, prior to the implementation of any recommendation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Regents expresses its sincerest and abiding gratitude to the members of the Commission on Historic Campus Representations for their extensive labor and prayerful deliberation in the course of successfully fulfilling their charge and providing this service, as volunteers, to the University and the Baylor Family.

AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution be shared with all constituencies of Baylor University in a spirit of openness and to affirm the Board's commitment to providing a Christ-like compassion and dedication to equality, justice, and conciliation at Baylor, throughout our state and nation and among all people.

The Baylor University Board of Regents this nineteenth day of February two thousand twenty-one:

Mark Rountree
Chair, Board of Regents
Baylor University

Members of the Board of Regents