50th Commemoration Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary, September 17, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:
President Diacon Ken Burhanna Ethan Lower
Alan Canfora Chic Canfora Laura Davis
Mindy Farmer Marcello Fantoni Rod Flauhaus
Tom Grace * Amoaba Gooden Paul Haridakis
Nick Kollar Uma Krishnan Jerry Lewis
Chris Post Char Reed (guest) Amy Reynolds
Melody Tankersley Lashonda Taylor (guest)

*Participated by phone

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE
The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. by Char Reed who welcomed everyone and introduced Dr. Uma Krishna, the new faculty advisory to the May 4 Task Force. The meeting was then turned over to President Diacon for his update.

President Diacon welcomed everyone and restated his commitment to having the Advisory Committee be the driving force behind the planning for the commemoration weekend. He also emphasized that the committee is making good progress on the planning but should remain open to more ideas and input. President Diacon indicated that progress is being made on the President Speaker Series, and that the focus for the committee should shift to the keynote speaker(s) for the commemoration.

At this point, President Diacon turned the floor over the May 4 Commemoration Day team and the Candlelight Walk & Vigil team for their reports.

MAY 4 COMMEMORATION DAY TEAM
Chic Canfora provided an update on the progress being made by the May 4 Commemoration Day team. The team’s recommendations include providing a printed version of the Kent State and Jackson State chronologies that can be distributed to anyone in attendance. Also discussed was having visual images projected on the screen during the chronologies and perhaps some editing of both chronologies.

The entire committee discussed several options for the keynote speaker(s) and also discussed the goals in selecting a speaker that might appeal to a diverse audience. Everyone agreed that the keynote speaker for May 4, 2020 needs to provide a powerful, historical and memorable address that will resonate after the commemoration. Some possible speakers were suggested
and President Diacon asked Rod Flauhaus to research their fees and availability and report back at the next meeting.

Some discussion also occurred about ways to involve the family members of the victims in the commemoration. Some discussion occurred about a possible team being formed to examine this issue. Char Reed will review this and the feasibility of convening such a team.

CANDLELIGHT WALK & VIGIL TEAM
Jerry Lewis was the spokesperson for this team and proceeded to provide an update to the committee on the progress of this team. In general, the walk and the vigil will remain the same with some minor adjustments to allow for the anticipated increased participation.

Some suggestions for the walk and vigil include:

- Short cuts or transportation at designated location for those who are elderly or require assistance during the walk;
- Designated areas for the media so they do not interfere with the walk or intrude upon people during the vigil;
- Possible seating at the end of the walk for those who need to rest. The location of the seating will be determined but it will not intrude on the Prentice Hall parking lot.

OTHER DISCUSSIONS
President Diacon made some observations about the recent “open letter” that appeared in a couple of newspapers and reminded us of how the university officially responds in these types of situations. There was discussion among the members on the committee’s role in responding to letters, questions or concerns raised throughout the year. After input from various members, the committee agreed that going forward a designated spokesperson could respond on behalf of the entire committee, when needed. The committee agreed that Chic Canfora and Rod Flauhaus would work together to be the designated spokesperson.

President Diacon thanked everyone for their work and the excellent progress made to date. It was agreed that another meeting of the Advisory Committee would take place in two weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.