50th Commemoration Advisory Committee  
Meeting Summary, May 7, 2019

IN ATTENDANCE:
President Warren  Maddie Camp  Alan Canfora *
Chic Canfora  Laura Davis  Mindy Farmer
Marcello Fantoni  Rod Flauhaus  Brianna Foraker
Amoaba Gooden *  Tom Grace *  Paul Haridakis
Nick Kollar  Jerry Lewis  Chris Post
Stephanie Smith  Melody Tankersley  Char Reed (guest)

* indicates joined meeting by phone

PRESIDENT’S UPDATE
The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. by Stephanie Smith who welcomed everyone and proceeded to discuss the agenda for the meeting, before turning it over to President Warren.

President Warren began her update by congratulating the May 4 Task Force on putting on the 49th commemoration as well as a successful candlelight walk and vigil. President Warren also indicated that she heard many people asking about plans for next year’s 50th commemoration and reinforced the importance of committee’s role to provide insight on thoughtful and meaningful planning.

President Warren also announced that Dr. Laura Davis will receive the President’s Medal at the Spring commencement ceremonies on May 11, 2019. Dr. Davis has contributed significantly to the history, legacy and ongoing education of May 4, 1970 as an author, educator and co-creator of the May 4 Visitors Center.

MAY 4 TASK FORCE UPDATE
Maddie Camp provided a recap of the 49th commemoration activities. Overall, she said the Task Force was pleased with the program but recognize that many people were not fully aware of all of the activities and that increased advertising and promotion are necessary for future programs. Maddie reported that 42 people signed-up for the 96 vigil slots resulting in some members of the Task Force needing to take multiple turns at standing vigil for the empty slots. Dr. Jerry Lewis suggested that we have some type of hand-out available explaining the vigil. He volunteered to develop a draft for review
She also passed on concerns about some of the documentary filmmakers during the vigil and commemoration program and the need to ensure that going forward, they do not cause any disruptions or interfere with people. Her final comment was that while the speakers were well attended, the program did run over and some people in the crowd left before the keynote speaker.

Stephanie Smith noted that this was Maddie’s last meeting with the Committee as she is stepping down as May 4 Task Force chair. Maddie was thanked for her service and will be replaced by the new chair.

**SECURITY**

Several people contributed to a discussion about security for the 50th based on a couple of minor incidents during the 49th. Some ideas were discussed about training faculty marshals and other staff in ways to help minimize possible incidents in the future. More discussions on security will take place at future meetings.

**FILMING OF MEETINGS**

Barbara Kopple and Dale Djerassi (dba “Cabin Creek”) joined the meeting by phone to discuss their 50th Commemoration documentary and their request to film some Advisory Committee meetings. For the first 10 minutes, Barbara and Dale explained their proposal and the types of filming they want to do at the meetings. They believe that overall, about 5 to 10 minutes of their film will contain some footage of these meetings.

Their approach is to let the participants tell the story and have other be a “witness” to the process of how the 50th developed over time. These emphasized that they are filmmakers, not journalists. As filmmakers, they don’t come in for sound bites or b-roll, but instead want to spend a lot of time with people getting to know them. One of their primary goals is for the audience to feel like they have walked in our shoes. They plan for the film to come out in late 2020.

A variety of questions were raised by members of the committee including crew size, ways to minimize disruptions, how the committees might be portrayed, transparency and even our role in the final edit. Some members agreed that the filming of these meetings does align with our mission and vision about educating about May 4 and preserving the history of the 50th commemoration.

After Barbara and Dale left the conversation, there was more discussion and the members agreed to let them film the meetings but with certain guidelines. Rod and Stephanie will incorporate member feedback into guidelines that will be shared with the filmmakers and committee members.

**POLARIZATION SYMPOSIUM**

The final agenda item of the meeting was a discussion for a possible academic symposium on the topic of “The Dangers of Polarization.” Stephanie Smith opened up the floor for general discussion of whether the members of the committee thought a symposium would be a good idea and if the topic was both strong and relevant given the issues facing society today.
Several members, including Marcello, Mindy, Paul and Alan, provided positive feedback on both the topic and the need to do a symposium. Marcello suggested that perhaps the symposium could be international and perhaps take place in Florence. He also recommended that a publication come out of the symposium. A few members suggested that given the timeframe, this should be an invited symposium and not an open call for papers. There was also discussion about involving the Kent community, as city officials have discussed hosting a workshop on this topic. A smaller sub-committee consisting of Marcello, Mindy, Laura, Paul, Jerry, Nick and Char will be formed.

CLOSING REMARKS
Speaking by phone, Tom Grace addressed the need to have a speaker for the 50th Commemoration May 4th program who represents the viewpoint of the 1960s-antiwar left. Such presenters, or some variation thereof, have been a fixture at almost every commemoration. Dr. Grace offered that he, Alan and Chic have the most experience organizing commemorations and inviting progressive speakers who focused upon linking 1970 with current events. Therefore, he requested being able to have continued input about having a progressive speaker or speakers for 2020 commemorative events.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.