



Meeting Summary

Commission to Study the History of the Uprooting of Black Communities by Public Institutions of Higher Education in the Commonwealth

May 20, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

General Assembly Building, House Room B-205

<https://studies.virginiageneralassembly.gov/studies/720>

The Commission to Study the History of the Uprooting of Black Communities by Public Institutions of Higher Education in the Commonwealth (the Commission) met in Richmond with Delegate Delores L. McQuinn, chair, presiding.¹ The meeting began with the chair's introduction, followed by a presentation and adoption of a work plan and virtual meeting policy. Materials presented at the meeting are accessible through the [Commission's meeting webpage](#). Video recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Presentation: Review of Commission's Charge and Proposed Work Plan

Amigo R. Wade, Director, Division of Legislative Services

Mr. Wade provided an overview of a prospective work plan based on the subcommittees established by the Commission in the previous interim, including the Research and Analysis Subcommittee, the Institutional Liaison Subcommittee, the African American Displacement Subcommittee, and the Compensation and Relief Subcommittee. He proposed a schedule that would alternate monthly between full Commission meetings and subcommittee meetings and allow the Commission to conclude its work prior to the 2026 Session. He reviewed the membership and duties of each subcommittee, emphasizing ways in which the subcommittees may work together to fulfill their goals.

Delegate McQuinn identified the subcommittee chairs, including Delegate Jeion A. Ward as chair of the Research and Analysis Subcommittee, Senator Mamie E. Locke as chair of the Institutional Liaison Subcommittee, Peter A. Blake as chair of the African American Displacement Subcommittee, and Senator Lamont Bagby as chair of the Compensation and Relief Subcommittee.

Mr. Wade explained that a budget amendment from the 2025 Session increased the Commission's funds from \$28,760 to \$228,760 and that these extra funds may be used to hire experts and third parties to assist the efforts of the subcommittees. Delegate McQuinn explained that universities had sent her responses to the Commission's initial inquiry from the previous interim and that she would share that information with the Research and Analysis Subcommittee. The motion to accept the work plan proposed by Mr. Wade was adopted unanimously.

¹ **Members Present:** Delegate Delores L. McQuinn (chair), Senator Lamont Bagby (vice-chair), Senator J.D. "Danny" Diggs, Delegate Bonita G. Anthony, Delegate Ellen H. Campbell (remote), Delegate Karen Keys-Gamarra, Delegate Jeion A. Ward, Peter A. Blake, Alyson Buckner (designee for Secretary Aimee Rogstad Guidera), Dr. Byron Cherry, Joni Ivey, Dr. Cassandra L. Newby-Alexander

Members Absent: Senator Mamie E. Locke, Senator David W. Marsden, Delegate Anne Ferrell Tata, Carl Edmonds, Dr. Maureen Elgersman Lee, A. Scott Fleming, Julian Maxwell Hayter

Mr. Wade concluded by reviewing the Commission's virtual meeting policy. The motion to enact the policy was adopted unanimously.

For more information, see the [*Commission's website*](#) or contact the Division of Legislative Services staff:

Amigo R. Wade, Director, DLS
awade@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1862

Lily Jones
ljones@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1888

Trevor Merrion
tmerrion@dls.virginia.gov
804-698-1851
