

Subject: Your views on B. K. Roberts.

Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020 at 7:52:57 PM Eastern Standard Time

From:

To: UR-President-TaskForce <pres-taskforce@fsu.edu>

CC: Erin Ryan <ERyan@law.fsu.edu>, dl-jes-trustees <dl-jes-trustees@fsu.edu>

November 29, 2020

President's Task Force on Anti-Racism, Equity & Inclusion:

Which U.S. Supreme Court ruling do you believe B. K. Roberts defied? The U.S. Supreme Court reviewed every Florida Supreme Court ruling in the Hawkins case and never once did they state or even suggest that any of their rulings were defied.

Have you read any of the U.S. Supreme Court rulings in the Hawkins case? FSU College of Law Professor Erin Ryan in her August 2020 presentation to the FSU Board of Trustees submitted B. K. Roberts' 1955 opinion as proof that he was a racist, yet the U.S. Supreme Court in its March 12, 1956 ruling vacated its May 24, 1954 order that Roberts was responding to in his 1955 opinion which is clearly acknowledged and emphasized in Roberts 1957 opinion and by the U.S. Supreme Court in its less than one page March 12, 1956 ruling. And like you Ryan did not provide which U.S. Supreme Court decision that B. K. Roberts supposedly defied or what evidence she has substantiating her other claim that Virgil D. Hawkins was "a qualified African American applicant".

Having followed your task force and the previous namings and recognitions advisory panel I have yet to see any of you provide any court documents, newspaper articles, etc ... to substantiate your views on B. K. Roberts. Without any such evidence how are you going to feel when people who believe your published and FSU sanctioned views decide to physically assault members of the Roberts family and kick them in the face after they have been knocked to the ground while walking in downtown Tallahassee or going to a shopping mall, etc ... You would not be calling B. K. Roberts a racist if he were alive today because he would sue you for defamation.

Subject: Eppes Statue Recommendation Proposal

Date: Monday, November 30, 2020 at 5:02:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

From:

To: UR-President-TaskForce <pres-taskforce@fsu.edu>

Good evening Jimmy,

Please send this email, with proposed revisions to the 2018 Panel Recommendation on the Eppes Statue to the other members of the Task Force.

The panel recommends that the Francis Eppes Statue be removed and curated by the University. The panel recommends the statue not be put on display for public consumption due to the significant evidence against Francis' Eppes role in founding the West Florida Seminary, which caused the statue to be created in 2002. The Eppes Statue has a new meaning closely tied to the results of student activism. The University will not know the legacy of these students' actions for years and even decades, therefore, to move it and put it on public display within months of its removal would do a disservice to the hard work and new meaning to the object and community. As per the previous recommendation made in 2018, it is imperative that the university work to embrace and embolden the voices of those who belong to the oppressed and historically silenced communities, including the African American, Seminole and other First Nation communities.

In reviewing the historical record relating to Francis Eppes, our research confirmed that he was a prominent citizen, community leader, four-time (intendant) mayor of Tallahassee, and grandson of Thomas Jefferson. Historical records also documented other aspects of Eppes' life, including his ownership of slaves at both of his Florida plantations and his service as Justice of the Peace in Tallahassee, for which his duties would have included establishing "frontier" law and order for the area and patrols for escaped slaves. Recognizing the vastly different social norms of Eppes' time, our recommendation was not solely influenced by these previously understood facts alone. Additional information shed a different light on the role Francis Eppes played in the founding of our University and brings into question the justification for his recognition. An accurate representation of the University's founding became a key determining factor to panel members.

Through the course of our research, we found that Eppes is not credited with, nor does he ever claim responsibility for, establishing the Seminary that evolved into the University we know today. **However, per a presentation by Dr. Koslow, we were able to confirm a building integral to the establishment of the West Florida Seminary was constructed by enslaved people.** Based on the historical records currently available and presentations regarding said documentation, Eppes worked with a group of leaders in 1836 to petition Congress to create an institution of higher education in the area. He was also part of the

group that successfully tried again in 1856, proposing to the Legislature to establish a Seminary West of the Suwanee, offering a building, \$10,000 in cash, and an annual endowment. It is also significant to note that when former FSU President Sandy D'Alemberte addressed the panel, he indicated that he had not vetted the information that had been provided to him with regard to Eppes' proposed recognition. Former President D'Alemberte noted that he should have conducted his own research and agreed that he had inaccurately identified Francis Eppes as the "founder" of FSU.

Subject: diversity and inclusion

Date: Friday, December 4, 2020 at 10:36:56 AM Eastern Standard Time

From:

To: UR-President-TaskForce <pres-taskforce@fsu.edu>

I'm confident it's offensive to mandate diversity and inclusion training to those who hv treated everyone based on their merits and not race, This implies they are inherently racist. Regardless, you can't chg the way ppl feel, however you can and should punish them for their actions.

All I read and hear are generalizations about inequality, lack of diversity etc. Where are the specific examples. Makes me wonder if it's all just show. How long is the school been in existence and why is this even an issue today. Why not form a smaller committee that reviews complaints of non-diversity and or racist issues. Give them the power to overrule decisions that go against the schools mission statement, guidelines, morals, values etc. In addition to mandating that person attends diversity and inclusion training. Add those actions to a person's performance review file. Get rid of those inherently racist individuals based on their actions.

P.s. obviously I'm not college educated. Please don't get distracted by my grammar. Please pass this along if it should be considered by others.