

Charter for the GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees

Preamble

“Nothing about us, without us.” These are the words of a descendant, and these are the words that this charter seeks to embody. We want to establish a new legacy. We want to—at least—attempt to right a wrong. Therefore, we resolve to create this Board—and to do so, half descendant, and half student. After innumerable deliberate, fruitful discussions between descendants, students, and student descendants, we propose the following as a fitting, amenable charter for the GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees.

Mission

The mission of the GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees (Board, Board of Trustees) is to directly better the lives of the descendants of the GU272. For that reason, the GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees will allocate the Reconciliation Contributions for charitable purposes directly benefiting the descendants of the GU272 and other persons once enslaved by the Maryland Jesuits—with special consideration given to causes and proposals directly benefiting those descendants still residing in underprivileged communities, such as in Maringouin, Louisiana.

Structure

The Board will consist of ten voting members. Five of the seats will be filled by descendants as elected at the descendant reunion by ranked choice voting and will sit for a term of five years. The remaining five seats will be filled by Georgetown students for terms of two years, with two members serving for initial terms of one year selected by the President of the Georgetown University Student Association and confirmed by the Senate, following a nomination and application process, in consultation with the descendent community and relevant advocacy groups. Should a member resign they shall be replaced with a new election or appointment, according to the original manner of selection, to fill the remaining duration of the term.

The Board shall have the right to invite individuals to join it as non-voting members. Individuals it may invite shall include, but not be limited to the Vice President for Institutional Diversity and Equity, the Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Financial Officer the General Counsel, the Curator for the Georgetown Slavery Archive, the Secretary of the Georgetown Memory Project, and the President of the Jesuit Conference and the United States or their respective designates.

Funding Guidelines and Potential Projects

The Board shall be empowered to allocate funds which directly benefit the descendants of the GU272. The Board shall be empowered to engineer a project proposal intake process that functions to enable the input of descendant perspectives and concerns. In the first year, the Board shall develop selection procedures for determining which projects to fund. The Board shall also develop

guidance for the requirements and format of such proposals. The Board shall develop ethical guidelines which the Board and its members shall abide by, including that the Board may not award funds to projects in which a Board member has a substantial business interest. These guidelines shall take effect unless objected to by the University Board of Directors. The Board shall fund in a given year no more than has been allocated to that fiscal year according to their budget. The Board may hire or may request the services of staff to fulfill administrative, professional, and operational requirements as it sees fit within University requirements.

These proposals may be for any of, but are not limited to, these following purposes or a combination thereof:

1. To provide medical care or to improve the health of descendants and their communities, such as but not limited to funding eye exams.
2. To improve and maintain infrastructure in descendant communities, such as but not limited to installing internet access.
3. To supplement the education of descendants, such as but not limited to college scholarships, K-12 funding, school supplies, and tutoring.

If offered, the Board shall also be empowered to receive outside philanthropic support and funding in pursuit of the aforementioned purposes.

Financial and Accounting Guidelines

The Board has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure proper financial management of the funds it oversees. Accordingly, it must abide by the following financial management principles and rules.

1. Before any funds from the Reconciliation Contribution are allocated, the proposed recipient and amount must be approved by a majority vote by the GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees.
2. The GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees shall report the financial results of the Board's allocations according to the schedule established by the Charter.
3. The GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees shall pay all obligations and file required reports in a timely manner.
4. The GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees shall make no contractual commitment for bank loans, corporate credit cards, or for real estate leases or purchases without a majority approval from the Board.
5. The GU272 Reconciliation Board of Trustees shall not give any money to another 501(c)(3) for political purposes, but may do so for charitable purposes, as outlined by the Board's charter and in accordance with IRS policies for the tax-exempt status of the University as a 501(c)(3).

6. The Board shall comply with all other University guidelines or best practices concerning accounting and financial management, as well as all applicable federal law and regulation.

Reporting Procedure

The Board will produce an annual report publicizing the outcomes of its previous allocation and describing what the resources received were used for. This will serve as an opportunity for the descendant community and Georgetown students to see the meaningful work of the Board's descendant and student members.

Amendments

This charter may be amended upon a two-thirds vote by the Board.