

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee
Minutes

February 12, 2018

4:30 pm

Members Present: Dr. Marion Sanford, Director of JFMC; Dr. Antonio Causarano (Chair); Dr. Leo Lee (Secretary); Dr. Xiaofeng Zhao; Dr. Maia Magrakvelidze; and Dr. Kashef Majid; student representatives: Benjamin Henderson and Zoya Ahmed.

Welcome – A student representative, Zoya, was welcomed to her first meeting of the JFMC FAC. Dr. Sanford reviewed what we had done for her.

Approval of minutes – The minutes were approved unanimously from the previous two meetings on November 14, 2017 and January 29, 2018.

Director's report:

- The Black History Month celebration began this month, doing kick-off lunch and showing a human rights film titled "*I Am Not Your Negro*" on Thursday, February 1st.
- There have been several Black History Month celebration events thus far; the last one we had was Colors of Africa on Friday, February 9th, 6 p.m. in the Chandler Ballroom. This event was sponsored by the African Student Union, Brothers of a New Direction, Students Educating and Empowering Diversity, Women of Color, and the James Farmer Multicultural Center. Colors of Africa raised awareness and highlighted Caribbean, African, and African American culture through music, dance, and soul and Caribbean food.
- Marion reminded us about a Jazz concert tonight (on Monday, February 12th, 7:30 p.m.) in the Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center. Doug Gately in the music department would direct this concert to celebrate the Black History Month.
- The Women's History Month celebration will begin on Thursday, March 1st. There will be many different celebration events in March; the details can be found on the JFMC webpage.
- Marion said that the 28th Annual Multicultural Fair had been scheduled on Saturday, April 14th, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. devoting to multicultural entertainment, activities for children, international and American food, etc. The performances and food vendors have been selected. The office is still receiving craft and nonprofit vendor applications.
- Marion also mentioned that the JFMC already started working on the celebration events for next academic year. The staff and multicultural clubs are identifying programs and events for the different cultural celebrations.
- Marion provided an update about RISE peer mentoring program. There will be two to three workshops this month for the mentees. The recruitment process has started for new

mentors. The selection process will conclude with a two-day intensive training the first weekend in May.

- Marion also talked about the Citizenship Award for Diversity Leadership; the recipient for this academic year is Zoya Ahmed, who is one of our student representatives. They are working with the Office of Financial Aid in the selection of this recipient.
- The Senior Recognition Program will be held in April; Graduating seniors who will be recognized are being contacted soon. Other plans and logistics for this event are underway.

New business – Marion reviewed Dr. Paino's Strategic Vision goals regarding promoting the values of service and community and civic engagement, and creating a diverse and inclusive community as an essential requirement for academic excellence and academic success. Then the committee members, including student representatives, had considerable discussion on these goals giving different ideas and opinions. The committee will continue to talk about them at its next meeting.

Our next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, March 26, 2018 at 4:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned.