

Minutes of the James Farmer Multicultural Center Advisory Committee
September 19, 2012
Submitted by: Mara Scanlon

Present: Dave Baker, Mara Scanlon, Dianne Baker, Leanna Giancarlo, Connie Smith, and Marion Sanford (ex officio).

The committee officially reorganized for the new academic year by electing Dave Baker as committee chair. Mara Scanlon was elected as secretary. The JFMC Advisory Committee will also include two students, Marjahn Goodman and Drema Khraibani.

The role of the committee was affirmed by all present to be advisory to JFMC and Dr. Sanford, to act as a liaison to the faculty, and to support the Center.

Free discussion spurred by Dr. Sanford's Director's Report filled the meeting time, and included the following:

- Numerous programs are upcoming at the JFMC, including Latino Identities Month Celebration, which started on September 17. The RISE Peer mentoring program is up and running, with about 20 mentors and 28 mentees. Mentors underwent an intensive 2-day training. The RISE group will have a series of workshops on things like time management and academic strategies (led by Beth Searcy), cultural trips (to DC museums, with lunch in Chinatown), and social outings. There will be assessment and evaluation of the project this year, looking specifically at student satisfaction and retention.
- The committee brainstormed ways of improving collaboration between specific classes, the larger student body, and JFMC events.
 - Some events (e.g., MLK Day celebration, Hispanic Heritage Month, Women's History Month, Black History Month) do happen at the same time each year.
 - The JFMC website is updated continually as events are confirmed.
 - The Cultural Awareness calendar is only completed in the summer. Dr. Sanford will send that calendar to all teaching faculty in the summer, hoping that faculty will be able to still coordinate their syllabi by requiring attendance, teaching particular books or issues, cosponsoring an event, etc.
 - Departments should consider linking the JFMC calendar with department calendars.
- The committee discussed the concept of a Cultural Passport, which would require all UMW students to attend some specified number of on- or off-campus cultural events per year. It has been considered for all students in the past, and the committee still likes that idea.
 - ✓ Kelli Slunt is trying this with the Honors students, and Dr. Sanford will communicate with her about it.
- Besides Honors students, other college and community groups that are or will be targeted for outreach:
 - The James Farmer FSEMs on Race and Revolution, or FSEMS more broadly.
 - James Farmer Scholars
 - STP students

- The International Education office
- ESL
- Local public schools (are already being targeted but may not be distributing the materials to families).
- Dr. Sanford has developed a JFMC alumni database and will continually add alumni to the list. The JFMC has produced and distributed to alumni on the database and other groups a quarterly electronic newsletter with info and updates. She will survey alumni about activities that might draw them back to campus to participate in various programs and interact with current students or into the JFMC network.
 - ✓ The group suggested that this newsletter should be linked to EagleEye.
- ✓ The committee suggested that JFMC should have a slide on the UMW homepage, maybe updated for awareness months or upcoming events, but at least to make the Center more visible with a link to its website.
 - ✓ Mara will contact Cathy Derecki.

- Our upcoming meetings for the fall semester are **Wednesday, October 17**, and **Wednesday, November 28**.

Meeting adjourned.