

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee
Minutes

October 10 2017

4:00 pm

Members Present: Dr. Marion Sanford, Director of JFMC; Dr. Antonio Causarano (Chair); Dr. Leo Lee (Secretary); Dr. Xiaofeng Zhao; and Dr. Maia Magrakvelidze

Welcome – Everyone was welcomed to the first meeting of the JFMC FAC. Dr. Sanford reviewed the history and purpose of the committee for the new members.

Election of officers – There was a quorum to conduct elections, even though the two student representatives have not been appointed to the committee at this time. We should have them selected before the next meeting. The election results are:

Antonio Causarano - Chair

Leo Lee – Secretary

Approval of minutes – The minutes were presented and approved unanimously from the previous meeting on March 29, 2017.

Director's report:

- Marion reported that the JFMC has a new Assistant Director of JFMC. His name is Christopher Williams. He is joining UMW from Germanna College and has varied experiences in multicultural and social justice programming. She also mentioned that this is the second of a two-year term for the James Farmer Post-doctoral Fellow in Civil Rights and Social Justice. Dr. Wanda Simpkins is in this role.
- An update on current cultural programming was provided by Marion. She mentioned that the Latino Identities Month celebration has been successful, thus far. The closing event is Thursday, Oct. 12th at 5 pm in Chandler Ballroom C. The program will feature Semilla Cultural as the performance at the Feria/Dinner Theater event. The Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) Celebration will begin the week after Homecoming activities. The Asian Cultural Celebration (ACC) will occur the following week. This year, the Taste of Asia program will serve as the kick-off event for the ACC and take place on Sunday, October 29th in the Chandler Ballroom.

Planning and preparations have begun for the spring cultural celebrations and events. The planning committees for Black History Month and the Multicultural Fair have already met to discuss the various events. The MLK and Women's History Month committee will meet later this month.

- The RISE Peer Mentoring program is pleased to have the largest cohort in program history of new students participating this year. There are 48 new mentees and 36 upperclass students serving as peer mentors. The students have already participated in two academic and personal development workshops, as well as cultural and social

activities. The JFMC staff and several of the RISE participants visited the Hampton History Museum in Hampton, VA on October 7th. We went to view the exhibit, “*When Computers Wore Skirts,*” a tribute to the *Hidden Figures* story. It was an exciting and enriching trip for everyone who attended. There are two remaining workshops this semester for the mentees in the program.

- Issues of diversity on campus were discussed by the members of the Committee to assess the work and next steps to take to make UMW a more inclusive place. Marion mentioned several recommendations moving forward from the President’s Task Force on Diversity report and discussed in some detail the President’s strategic vision and goals.
- The JFMC is supporting and participating with the Safe Zone program to provide resources and training on campus. We are working closely with Dr. Laura Wilson, the director of UMW Safe Zone, to enhance the various initiatives of the group. Safe Zone will sponsor a campus awareness program to support the national Coming Out Day event on Wed., Oct. 11th from 12:00 noon – 3:00 pm.
- Other topics have including continuing to provide a safe space and support for our students on campus, and encouraging and participating in open dialogues regarding safety, campus climate, dealing with incidents, etc.

The Committee will have its next meeting November 14, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned.