

Minutes of the meeting of the JFMC Faculty Advisory Committee of October 3, 2013

The meeting began at 4:06 p.m. Present were: David Baker, Marion Sanford, Connie Smith, and Tracy Citeroni.

Meeting time was established at 4 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. Officers are yet to be determined. They will be elected at the next meeting of the committee.

We briefly discussed the campus renovations and moves. Taking the Great Hall off-line has meant some juggling for alternate programming spaces for the Multicultural Center, along with many other departments and offices.

Marion Sanford gave a report of the programming of the Center and other activities. There are three (3) more events for the Latino Identities Month celebration: the Jazz Ensemble performance, a Dreamer's Panel, and a Dinner Theatre with fashion show. After Fall Break, the GSMA (Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies) celebration has several activities planned. She explained that the change in the name of the celebration from the previous GLBTTQQAAP to GSMA this year was to reflect a more inclusive embracing of all identities within this community. This semester, the PRISM Prom has been moved to Friday because of Homecoming activities. It will be held after the Carnival. The committee was pleased; and believes this improves visibility for the group. For the Asian Cultural Celebration, a big keynote event is planned: **Taikoza, Japanese Drum and Bamboo Flute group, will perform in Dodd on Tuesday October 29 at 7 p.m.** Marketing will be extensive to the campus and local communities hopefully to have it well attended. Taste of Asia, featuring a fashion show, performances, and the feast, will be Friday, November 1st at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall. This event is normally quite popular. Dr. Sanford handed out posters of the first three cultural celebrations for the semester.

The James Farmer Post Doctoral Fellow this year is Meghan Conley in Sociology and Anthropology. She conducted the first Social Justice Teach-In yesterday on immigration reform with Kevin Lopez, who is the 2013 -14 Citizenship Award for Diversity Leadership student recipient. The second teach-in is scheduled October 30th with BSA and BOND on racial profiling and "stop and frisk." Discussion will include various aspects of the Trayvon Martin case. On December 4th, the third Social Justice Teach-In will focus on food justice and sustainability. Plans are underway for a "Know Your Rights" workshop later this semester.

The RISE Peer Mentoring program, which began last year, had 28 mentees (new freshman and transfer students) and 25 mentors (upperclass students). This year, there are 34 mentees and 25 mentors, some of whom are returning mentors and some of whom are former mentees. Both speak to the success of the program. Retention and academic success were monitored throughout the year and instructional workshops offered, such as on study skills and time management. In addition, cultural trips and social outings were sponsored for the participants. At the end of the first year, the cumulative GPA for mentees was somewhat higher than for all

first-year students, which again speaks to the success of the program. Both verbal and written feedback were collected from the students at the end of both academic terms. Their comments indicated that the program made them feel more confident in their ability to succeed at UMW and more connected to the community.

Proposals for Black History Month and Women's History Month celebrations will go out soon.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Thursday, November 7th.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Smith, acting secretary