

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee
Minutes

January 29, 2018

4:00 pm

Members Present: Dr. Antonio Causarano (Chair); Dr. Marion Sanford, Director of JFMC; Dr. Xiaofeng Zhao; Dr. Maia Magrakvelidze; and Dr. Kashef Majid; Student Representative- Benjamin Henderson

Approval of minutes – The minutes were presented and tabled from the previous meeting on November 14, 2017. They will be approved at the next meeting

Director's report:

- Dr. Marion Sanford reported on the activities of James Farmer Multicultural Center. She began with highlights and accomplishments from last fall semester. They included:
 - Sponsored over seven cultural celebrations during the fall (e.g., CCBBQ, LIM, GSMA...Kwanzaa)
 - Sponsored/co-sponsored five social justice initiatives (including two Human Rights Film Series and three social justice teach-ins focusing on immigration in America and examining issues relating to race relations in this country, especially around the Declaration of Independence concepts such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and discussing the ideology of White Supremacy)
 - Accompanied 14 students representing seven multicultural and social justice clubs to the African-American Student Leadership Experience in Washington, DC
 - Conducted over eight diversity training sessions on microaggressions (at least six of the sessions were to over 16 athletic teams reaching over 300 student athletes)
- The 2018 MLK, Jr. celebration was very successful. The keynote speaker, Ms. April Ryan, delivered a powerful message and encouraged everyone to “aspire to inspire.” The Day of Service event on Sat., Jan. 27 had over 70 students registered to participate in completing community service projects for different agencies and companies.
- The Black History Month celebration will begin this Thursday, February 1st. There is a full calendar of events from different cultural cuisines, performances (e.g., the Gospelfest program on Feb. 3rd, Colors of Africa on Feb. 9th, and Step Show on Feb. 24th) to music (e.g., Jazz concern on Feb. 12th and Odyssey of Soul on Feb. 19th) and a keynote speaker, as well as other lectures and activities.
- As reported by Dr. Sanford, the Human Rights Film Series sponsored by James Farmer Multicultural Center was very successful and involved not only students and staff from the University of Mary Washington but the community as well.
- It was shared that more conversations were taking place with different student clubs, organizations, departments, etc., regarding the 1st Amendment and free speech. The committee engaged in a discussion on free speech and the intricacies of that notion on a college campus.

- Dr. Sanford reviewed a couple of Dr. Paino's Strategic Vision goals and mentioned upcoming discussions regarding the Statement of Community Values, how we can incorporate more cultural competency training on campus, etc.
- Meeting was adjourned and the future meeting dates confirmed by the committee members.

Future Meetings:

Feb. 12th at 4:30 PM

Mar. 26th at 4:30 PM

Apr. 9th at 4:30 PM