

**Report from the James Farmer Multicultural Center Advisory Committee
September 12, 2011**

Members in Attendance: Julius Esunge, Leanna Giancarlo, Connie Smith, Dianne Baker, Charlie Girard

The Committee met on Monday, September 12, 2011. The first order of business entailed organizing the committee for the 2011-2012 school year. This resulted in the nomination and election of Julius Esunge as Committee Chair and Dave Baker as Secretary. Charlie Girard attended the meeting as one of the student representatives.

Julius Esunge talked about some of the accomplishments of the 2010-11 JFMC Committee and clarified the role of the committee. The group serves as an advisory committee with an emphasis on inviting comments, concerns and even entertaining possible visits to committee meetings to explore ideas from the UMW community.

Marion Sanford, Director of JFMC, provided the committee with an overview of the focus areas for the 2011-12 school year including:

- A series of brown bag lunch discussions on the topic of social justice. The purpose of the series is to engage students, faculty, and staff to discuss issues of social justice together in an informal setting. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14th at 12:00 noon.
- Identifying local unsung heroes to speak to UMW students
- Providing a film series (two to three) to UMW students
- The development of a student-mentor program called RISE (Resource Inspiring Student Excellence). Recruitment and training of mentors is planned for the spring. The program will be in place in the fall of 2012.

The Director reminded the committee of the upcoming Latino Identities Month celebration kickoff and other activities planned by this group. The Director also highlighted the scheduled events and activities as part of the 18th Annual Cultural Awareness Series for 2011-12.

The committee talked briefly about the possibility of coordinating a series of workshops for students. Leadership and time management were several potential topics discussed by the committee.

Julius Esunge talked about his recent efforts to gather information pertaining to UMW graduation rates and GPAs of students of color. He plans to share the data with the committee once it is fully collected. The committee agreed the information should be analyzed and discussed since it could have implications for the work of the committee. Julius hopes to be able to have the information ready to share with the committee at the next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28th at the James Farmer Multicultural Center.

David J. Baker
Secretary

