

Minutes of the James Farmer Multicultural Center Advisory Committee
January 16, 2013
Submitted by: Mara Scanlon

Present: Dianne Baker, Leanna Giancarlo, Connie Smith, Marjahn Goodman, Drema Khraibani, Mara Scanlon (acting chair), and Marion Sanford (ex officio).

The committee discussed the concept of the Cultural Passport from prior meetings. It was determined that initiating such a program is not in the purview of this Advisory Committee or the JFMC alone. The committee discussed the complications with various models that are used elsewhere (tying it into FSEM, approaching it through student life or orientation, monitoring with a registration hold or EagleOne swipe-in). Dr. Sanford will speak with Dr. Leah Cox and Vice President for Student Affairs Doug Searcy.

Dr. Sanford reported on the activities of the JFMC:

- MLK Celebration programming begins the semester, with speeches on Harry Belafonte's activism, a discussion led by Brothers of a New Direction, and the keynote speaker Steve Pemberton, the Chief Diversity Officer of Walgreens, whose talk is being promoted locally as well. A bone marrow and blood drive and the Day of Service will also be part of the activities, including a new event for children on Saturday morning. Response from clubs and athletic teams for off-campus service has been good.
- Black History Month 2013, "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: Celebrating Our Past and Shaping Our Future," will shape February programming and will emphasize music this year, including R&B, Blues, and Soul, jazz, and a gospelfest in Dodd. The keynote speaker on February 7 will be Dr. Nwando Achebe, a historian, whose talk is entitled "Intimate Tensions: The Politics of Knowledge, and of Othering African Women's and Gender Worlds." Cultural activities like meals in Seaco, a step show, a black history trivia night, and more are scheduled throughout the month. A community event on February 9 from 8:30-12 in the Great Hall, "African-American Symposium: Strengthening the Community, Embracing the Family" will address education, health, politics, religion, and economics in panels focused on the family.
- The search is open for a new James Farmer postdoc since Matt Johnson's term is ending. The recipient will have faculty rank and will also hold a position in the JFMC. One of Matt Johnson's signature contributions, the Social Justice Brown Bag Lunch Series/Teach-Ins, will continue.
- The James Farmer Visiting Lecturer will be Xavier Richardson, who will speak at 7:00 pm on February 20 in Lee Hall 411. Nominations for the lecturer in the future will be solicited on and off campus, and community members are, as always, welcome to attend the event.

Dr. Sanford and Drema Khraibani, student peer coordinator, reported on the RISE student mentoring program. They are working on a fall summary report of the initiative. In addition, Dr. Sanford will look at retention and academic performance for participants. A workshop on building class schedules and registering was offered by Beth Searcy and was very helpful. The program also continues its social aspect and will be bowling next week. New mentors are now being accepted for the upcoming year.

The Collaborations Report, provided by Dr. Sanford, will be attached to these minutes.