

JFMC Advisory Committee
11/7/13 Minutes

Present: Mara, Connie, Dave, Marion, & Tracy

1. Election of Officers – We nominated and voted to approve Connie as committee chair and Tracy as secretary. Marion stated that the two student members of the committee had been recommended and were in the final stages of the approval process.
2. Sabbatical – We decided to leave Mara’s seat on the committee open while she is on sabbatical during the spring semester (2014). She will rejoin us in the fall.
3. COB Representative – We discussed the lack of COB representation on our committee. Mara will write to FOC to inquire about rectifying this apparent oversight.
4. Director’s Report – Marion briefed the committee in detail about ongoing JFMC cultural programming:
 - a. GSMA celebration completed and was a big success.
 - b. Asian Cultural Celebration - Taste of Asia completed that series and was well attended.
 - c. Jewish Cultural Celebration had started on Monday and will conclude on Nov 15th.
 - d. Native American Celebration will take place from Nov 18-21.
 - e. Kwanzaa will be the last celebration of the semester.
5. Marion also mentioned:
 - a. Meghan Conley is hosting a series of Social Justice Teach-Ins. The first was about immigration reform. The second was on racial profiling and “stop and frisk” incidents and their impact on different communities. The third and final teach-in of the semester will be on the topic of “Food Justice” and will take place on Dec 4th. Meghan is also sponsoring a “Know Your Rights” workshop on Nov. 13th.
 - b. The JFMC newsletter, started last year as an outreach initiative to alumni, has continued with publishing and distributing issues this semester. JFMC plans to use it for outreach with potential students, as well as sharing it with other constituents.
 - c. The University is continuing to address issues relating to members of the LGBTQ community. Through the Office of the Diversity and Inclusion, there is a standing committee of administrators, staff and students who have explored opportunities to resolve concerns and accommodations that have been presented to the institution. One outcome of this effort has been the identification of at least one gender-neutral bathroom (with appropriate signage) in each academic building on campus. Other initiatives are being explored, including offering Safe-Zone training on campus, that will further support the University’s commitment to make this environment inclusive for everyone.

6. RISE – Marion gave the committee background information on the JFMC peer mentoring program which started Fall, 2012. Evaluation of the program yielded rich data about the positive impact of peer mentoring on retaining students and overall satisfaction of students regarding their first year experience. Some students who went through the program have returned to serve as mentors this year.
7. We agreed to hold our next meeting (the last of this semester) on Tues December 3rd at 4pm in the JFMC in Lee Hall.