

Minutes of the James Farmer Multicultural Center Advisory Committee
October 17, 2012
Submitted by: Mara Scanlon

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

The meeting opened with introductions of the two students, Marjahn and Drema, who will be representatives to the committee. Both women hold multiple positions of leadership on campus and have a strong record of fostering diversity; they were welcomed by the faculty.

Dr. Sanford reported on the activities of the JFMC:

- Latino Identities Month concluded in mid-October with a dinner theatre and Latin dancing. Congratulations are due to student Logan Martinez for heading this celebration.
- October 17 is the kickoff of the LGBTQ celebration, which will include Post Secret, a film night, educational roundtables, keynote performer Ben Lerman, and a PRISM Prom. PRISM is moving toward a less-specific and more-inclusive designation for its members, GMSA, which stands for Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies.
- The Asian Cultural Celebration begins Monday, October 29, and will include a presentation by Dr. Steve Rabson of the Leidecker Center on Japan's ethnic minorities and the performing arts; a keynote speech by Dr. Namiko Kunimoto, an art professor from American University; a Japanese Horror film fest; and the Taste of Asia on Friday, November 2.
- Other celebrations and programs will follow quickly, with the Jewish Cultural Celebration beginning Monday, November 5 (full schedule to follow, but includes a food event, movie/discussion, a presentation on the laws of Leviticus by Dr. Mary Beth Matthews, and keynote speaker Mark Oppenheimer on November 14) and the Native American celebration beginning immediately after Thanksgiving (Piscataway Nation singers and dancers will form the keynote event), followed closely by Kwanzaa on December 4.

The committee discussed the work of planning and funding so many events. A number of events from the JFMC have planning committees, including Black History Month, Women's History Month, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, and the Multicultural Fair. The JFMC takes a leadership role in many of these as well, and partners with student groups for the various celebrations and cultural awareness programs. The JFMC provides money for all keynotes, and the student groups also seek other funding sources or raise money themselves. In addition to program planning, of course, the JFMC maintains an active agenda of student leadership development and peer mentoring.

The Cultural Programming and Collaborations Report, provided by Dr. Sanford, is attached to these minutes.