

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes

April 24, 2019

10:00 am

Members Present:

Dr. Marion Sanford – Director of JFMC;
Dr. Leo Lee (Math.) – Chair;
Dr. Maia Magrakvelidze (Phys.) – Secretary (arrived 10:20);
Dr. Alexandra Dunn (Business);
Dr. Suzie Kim (Art History);
Dr. Melissa Wells (Education);
Jason Ford – Student representative;
Erin Shaw– Student representative.

Approval of minutes -- The minutes were presented from the previous meeting on March 27, 2019 and approved unanimously.

Director's Report –

Dr. Marion Sanford started her report with an overview of the Cultural Programming and social justice initiatives.

➤ Cultural programming:

- The Passover Seder meal occurred on 4/23 and was very successful, with around 80 attendees from UMW and the local temple. The Jewish Student Association (JSA) facilitated the event, as well.
- The Multicultural Fair was on 4/13. Despite having to be moved inside due to inclement weather, it also had a good turn-out and great performances, especially at the student performances in Monroe and the children's area in the UC. The food vendors had great traffic and sales for their various cultural cuisines.
 - Next year's date has been set for 4/4/20, a week earlier than normal due to Easter falling on the second Sunday of the month. This will be the 30th anniversary of the Fair, so celebrations are being planned accordingly.
- The Islamic Cultural Celebration, co-facilitated by the Muslim Student Association, also went well.
- JFMC is working hard to prepare for next year's Cultural Awareness Series events, which includes securing speakers and performers.

➤ Social Justice initiatives:

- No new updates; planning is underway for next year for events such as the fall break trip and the Social Justice Teach-In series.

➤ RISE Peer Mentoring program update

- There was an end-of-the-year gathering on 4/22 to recognize this year's mentees and mentors, especially the graduating mentors.

- The weekend after finals marks the beginning of training for next year's peer mentors. More upperclassmen are needed as mentors and recruitment is ongoing.

Discussion of Recent Actions Regarding the Gen. Ed. Curriculum

- The group discussed how the recent revisions of the Gen. Ed. Curriculum affected students' awareness of diversity and inclusion awareness. Based on our recent ASPIRE statement, the goal is that every student is engaged in issues surrounding diversity and inclusion. The specific category has been changed from Global Inquiry to Diverse and Global Perspectives, and classes will be designated to fulfill the requirements of this category based on an application process. Questions:
 - Can this course be transferred in, or would it have to occur at UMW? For example, a geography class at another institution may not focus much on the cultural aspects as much as the physical location aspects.
 - Does this requirement have to be done early in a student's career at UMW, or can it be done near the end? The group felt this would probably fall on advisors to work with students to determine.
 - If some courses count in multiple areas, is it possible that the Diverse and Global Perspectives aspect would get somewhat overlooked?
 - What are the explicit differences between Beyond the Classroom and After Mary Washington? Can internships count for these? (The group felt yes, this would apply.) Also, JFMC will partner with the CEE to offer some experiences.

Elections for JFMC FAC 2019-2020

- Dr. Maia Magrakvelidze was nominated as chair and unanimously approved.
- Dr. Suzie Kim was nominated as secretary and unanimously approved.
- Dr. Marion Sanford will recommend 2 students to appoint to the committee in the fall.

Announcements

- Jason (student representative) was elected as the SGA president for 2019-2020.
- Erin (student representative) received the Grace Mann Award for her significant work and contributions in the areas of social justice and equality.
- Several other JFMC staff members and programs were nominated for (and received) Eagle Awards this spring.

Next meeting:

The meeting schedule will be established in the fall.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.