

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes

September 11, 2019

4:00 pm

Members Present:

Dr. Marion Sanford – Director of JFMC;
Dr. Suzie Kim (Art History) – Chair;
Dr. Alexandra Dunn (Business) – Secretary;
Dr. Melissa Wells (Education);
Dr. Mehdi Aminrazavi (CPR);
Dr. Veena Ravishankar (Computer Science);

Absent: N/A

Approval of minutes -- The minutes were presented from the previous meeting on April 24, 2019 and approved unanimously.

Director's Report –

Dr. Marion Sanford started her report with an update on student representatives. Dr. Sanford is nominating two students to serve on the committee. We should know by our next meeting who those two students will be.

➤ **Cultural programming:**

- The Cross-Cultural BBQ was held on Thursday, 8/29.
 - The BBQ was the first cultural event of the year and focused on the multicultural and social justice clubs. There were several cultural performances and food representing cultural cuisines from around the world.
 - Over 450 students swiped into the event, which is awesome!
- Latino Identities Month starts in September.
 - While it is nationally known as Hispanic Heritage Month, several years ago, UMW students wanted to rename it to be more inclusive of all Spanish speaking identities. Events do still coincide with the same dates as national Hispanic Heritage Month and will be advertised in a variety of ways.
- Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) kickoff is a week-long event in October and will begin after Homecoming Weekend.
- The Asian Cultural Celebration and Taste of Asia will be held the last week in October.
- The Jewish Cultural Celebration will be held the first week of November.
 - The Maxine and Carl D. Silver Center for Jewish Life/Hillel House is still under construction. As soon as it is open (possibly November), the University will consider having a soft opening in the fall. The plan is to have a large event in the Spring to celebrate the Hillel house. The Passover Seder event held late spring will probably take place there.

- Native American Cultural Celebration is the second week in November.
- The Kwanzaa celebration is the first week of December
 - Due to the large turnout last year, the JFMC will be using the entire Chandler Ballroom this year!
- Kwanzaa will be the last cultural celebration of the fall semester. JFMC will kick off events in the Spring with the MLK celebration in January.

- **Faculty Cultural Programming**
 - Suzie Kim, chair of the JFMC FAC, has curated an exhibition and gallery that will be displayed from October 24 to December 8. The exhibition is titled, “Marginalized Histories of Korean Women” and will be displayed at the Ridderhof Martin Gallery.
 - Mehdi Aminrazavi is working with a donor to the religion program. The religion program will use the money to promote and encourage interreligious dialogue. They are planning speakers and conferences.

- **Social Justice initiatives:**
 - The JFMC is bringing back the popular and successful Fall Break Social Justice trip. This year, the group of students, and hopefully community, staff and faculty members, will be following the Freedom Rides journey that Dr. James Farmer organized in 1961.
 - The group has a route planned out with stops including Greensboro, Atlanta, Anniston, Birmingham, and back.
 - This trip has also been coordinated as one activity to celebrate 30 years of the Multicultural Center at UMW.
 - The Social Justice Teach-In Series
 - The first teach-in series will be held on Thursday, September 19 at 6:00 pm.
 - The presentation is called, “A Call to Civic Action: Making a Difference,” and will be held in Chandler Ballroom C, University Center. This event is in partnership with the Center for Community Engagement.
 - At this event, representatives from OneVirginia 2021, NextGen America, and New Virginia Majority, will discuss why it is important for every citizen to become and remain politically and civically engaged, how it can impact their everyday lives through public policy, and the power of being an informed citizen casting their vote each election cycle. This event will be held in Chandler Ballroom C. Dinner and refreshments will be provided. It will last from 6 pm until 8 pm.
 - JFMC Human Rights Film Series

The first Human Rights Film Series is scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 12th at 12:30 pm. The title of the documentary is, “America Divided: The Epidemic.” Promotional materials regarding the film series was distributed to the committee.

- **RISE Peer Mentoring program**
 - The program has kicked off for the year with the RISE Meet & Greet on Aug. 27th. There are 26 peer mentoring pairs. The first outing for the program is the weekend of September 14.

- **Diversity Education Toolkit** is available on the JFMC website.
- **Outreach to community**
 - The JFMC is continuously exploring new strategies to get the community involved and attending events sponsored by the JFMC. They have strengthened community relationships with local businesses and agencies.
 - Events are listed on multiple community websites and some organizations have started displaying the JFMC events on electronic displays and hanging posters in their organizations. We have seen increases in attendance from this collaboration!

Chair's Report –

- **Future meeting dates**
 - The committee set the future meeting dates for the semester. The dates are Wednesday, October 2 at 5:00 pm and Wednesday, November 20 at 4:00 pm.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, October 2 at 5:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.