

## Student Affairs & Campus Life Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

Date April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Present: Jason James, Patricia Orozco, Ping Yin, Jason Robins, Cedric Rucker, Juliette Landphair, Maysoon Al Sayed, Marion Sanford

### I. Introductions

Cedric Rucker – Associate Vice President and Dean of Student Life

Jason James – Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Committee Chair

Patricia Orozco – Department of Modern Languages & Literatures

Ping Yin – Department of Geography

Jason Robinson – Department of Art & Art History

Maysoon Al Sayed Ahmad- Department of Modern Languages & Literatures

Marion Sanford - Director of Multicultural Affairs

Juliette Landphair Vice President of Student Affairs

Gannon Sims *co* – director The Center for Faith & Leadership

Faculty / advisor of the Jewish student association

II. I. Discussion with various department and individual who is working with the students outside the classroom to extend our awareness of the student's non-academic experience and Hearing from our guests how they see their role with the student and what kind of support they receive.

· The advisor of the Jewish student association described his club as a complicated entity because the way the club interacts with both campus life structure and the off-campus structure and the fact that they don't have any ministry of thecal to support to have a rabbi as a full-time person on campus. As an advisor of the club, his role is mostly to give some continuity to the program and nurture them in the right direction more inclusive towards the Jewish culture understanding. He also indicated that the club gets excellent support from the multicultural office. He said the current project to see the possibility to hire a full-time staff member to work there, although he believes that UMW doesn't have the resources to hire someone at the catholic level in the near future. He thinks it's essential to have someone with experience in Jewish communal life and not necessarily to be a rabbi. This person would have a similar role to catholic center off-campus leadership.

III. The advisor added the Jewish students feel misrepresented on campus and on academic as well. He also said there a handful of Jewish students who are happy to be involved with representing Jewish on campus despite that some students don't like to reveal their religion fear of discrimination.

IV. Dean Rucker commented that Jewish students are part of the athlete and the other organization on campus. "We have Jewish in almost all organizations not necessarily part of the James Farmer office.

V. Juliette Landphair suggests that there are good Jewish community and families in VA and its good to draw attention to Mary Washington by giving more support to the Jewish students' activities.

VI. Gannon Sims said that the Center is a living room for Fredericksburg and the Mary Washington campus. It's filled with memories of mission projects, study sessions, and home-cooked meals.

VII. He said the center through the years created spaces for events and interactions. They work to develop collaborative partnerships with The Washington Arts Group, Fredericksburg City Schools, and churches, campus ministry groups, and community organizations. He said one of the main things they do with UMW students is Christian Unity at UMW and beyond, where many of our college students and young adults are involved in different Christian ministries on campus and in Fredericksburg. The Center acts as a resource for and promotes unity among, these ministries through co-sponsored events, meeting space and prayer gatherings with ministry leaders. Also, the center is a safe place for people to find the help they need. They offer pastoral care and counseling at all times and connect people with professional counselors in the area when needed.

VIII. · Dr. Marian Sanford the director of Multicultural Affairs added, the multicultural center offers support to all religions, minority, groups on campus through programming and provide the resources for them and they work with them to connect them with different agencies in the community. She added we celebrate Passover event and Islamic Culture celebration. She believes faculty should be sensitive to the student's minority and history, and religion is important. "We need to increase faith, history sensitivity, especially the things that can affect the community.

IX.

X. · Juliette Landphair said all faculty agree that the students have a variety of support system in campus and the Talley center role for counseling and helping the students to adapt and to campus life as we have discussed that in our previous meeting. Also, the center offers a different kind of counseling and assessment of how the students can be helped and served to be successful.

XI.

## **XII. Chair Report and Approval of Minutes**

- a. At the end of the meeting, a vote took place to nominate the following officers for the next school year: Patricia Orozco, Chair; Jason Robinson, Secretary. They both accepted.

## **XIII. Next Meeting**

September 19<sup>th</sup>