

# James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes

October 2, 2019

5:00 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);  
Anushah Hassan (Student representative);  
Nehemia Abel (Student representative)

Absent: N/A

Approval of minutes -- The minutes were presented from the previous meeting on September 11, 2019 and approved unanimously.

## Director's Report –

Dr. Marion Sanford started her report with an update on student representatives. The faculty met the two selected student representatives, Anushah Hassan and Nehemia Abel. Anushah and Nehemia are both members of the student Multicultural Leadership Council. Anushah's Eagle Bhangra dance group performed at a local community function recently and Nehemia presented a College 101 Workshop on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, which focused on helping first year and transfer students get acclimated to UMW.

## ➤ **Cultural programming:**

- Latino Identities Month Celebration is in September.
  - The purpose of this Celebration is to educate and raise awareness, but also to provide a call to action to address issues that are important to our community and our society.
  - There are a lot of events going on! Members of the Latino Student Association (and members of the e-board) will be on a panel about immigration. There will also be a movie night and the Celebration will culminate with Sabor Latino, which is a festive event with performances, fashion show and food.
  - This Celebration is the first of three month-long celebrations throughout the year.
- Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies (GSMA) Cultural Celebration is the first week after Homecoming activities.
  - This week highlights and celebrates members of the LGBTQ community. This year, the theme focuses on LGBTQ in STEM fields. There will be a STEM panel

highlighting advancements made in STEM fields based on LGBTQ+ contributions.

- The annual PRISM (people for the rights of individual and sexual gender minorities) prom will take place the week after homecoming. This is the concluding event of the week.
- The Asian Cultural Celebration is a week-long cultural celebration during the last week of October. The celebration culminates with one of the largest cultural events on campus for the year called Taste of Asia.
- The Jewish Cultural Celebration is held the first week of November.
  - The construction on the Maxine and Carl D. Silver Center for Jewish Life/Hillel House is moving quickly. Right now, construction is set to be completed in mid-November. While the construction will be complete this semester, events through JFMC will start in the Spring semester.
  - There has been a job description drafted for a director/building manager for the Hillel House. The person who fills this role will oversee the building and Jewish life programming.
- Native American Cultural Celebration is the second week of November.
- The Fall semester concludes with the Kwanzaa celebration on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 pm in Chandler Ballroom.
- **Social Justice initiatives:**
  - The Social Justice Fall Break Trip, titled “The Freedom Rides Revisited” is just a few days away!
    - Approximately 70 people are traveling including students and people from various constituency groups including alumni, community members, faculty, and staff.
    - The UMW student bus is full with 47 students attending! There are several students returning from the trip last year as well. This is awesome!
    - The community bus has approximately 20 members of the community. This is wonderful because it will be a shared experience between students and the community. The two groups are meeting before the start of the trip and then travel together during fall break.
    - The trip has gotten picked up by various media outlets including NPR. This is a monumental undertaking because this is only the second time the same route of the Freedom Rides of 1961 is being followed. On the trip, there will be a designated photographer and videographer. There will also be social media journaling along the way by the JFMC and students. The hope is that a documentary can be made!
- **Farmer Legacy Council plans for Centennial Celebration**
  - The Freedom Rides trip will be a soft launch for the Centennial Celebration.
  - The Legacy Council is also working on identifying and finalizing signature events for the celebration, as well as other activities that will highlight Dr. Farmer’s legacy.

- Tentatively, plans are being made for the week of January 12. During this time, a birthday celebration will be held in Dr. James Farmer's honor. The Council is aiming to bring together internal and external parts of the community.
- **RISE Peer Mentoring program**
- The first social hour will be held on 10/3/2019.
  - The first historical downtown tour went well and had high attendance.
  - The second workshop on "Choosing a Major" will be held on 10/7/2019.
  - It is great to see that students are also using the JFMC to make connections as well. Students stop in, hang out, and talk during their time in the JFMC.
- **New business**
- The committee reviewed and revised the entry for the James Farmer Multicultural Center Advisory Committee in the Faculty Handbook (Link to Google Doc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/14IpQzA7OkghWVAnEUChBbnOzqe4-5-va0M4SRuk0Jg/edit>).
  - After discussion, the committee voted to keep the current language for the Faculty Handbook. No changes were made.
  - The committee also discussed a UFOC recommendation to include more student representatives on the JFMC committee. The UFOC recommended this to try and increase student involvement with the JFMC.
  - After discussion, the committee felt no additional student representatives were needed because the two JFMC student representatives are also members of the student Multicultural Leadership Council (MLC). The JFMC committee feels the two student representatives act as a liaison between the faculty on JFMC FAC and the MLC. The MLC meets monthly and the group of student leaders representing over 20 cultural and social justice clubs share information about upcoming events, social justice and diversity issues affecting the community, and solicit feedback.
  - However, the committee agreed to emphasize to the JFMC student representatives that we extend an open invitation to the MLC to attend any meetings, but there will not be additional formal student representatives.
  - The committee voted to keep the number of student representatives on the JFMC at two.

**Next meeting:**

Wednesday, November 20 at 4:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.