

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes

February 5, 2020

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);
Anushah Hassan (Student representative);
Nehemia Abel (Student representative)

Absent:

Dr. Veena Ravishankar (Computer Science);

Approval of minutes – The minutes were presented from the previous meeting on November 20, 2019 and approved unanimously.

Student Representative Updates:

- Anushah Hassan reported the Arab Culture Club is having World Hijab Day on 2/6.
- Nehemia Abel discussed his planning for a diversity program that will be held in late March. He encouraged the group to attend and share with faculty/staff as more information becomes available.

Director's Report –

- **Cultural programming:**
 - The University of Mary Washington Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
 - Dr. Benjamin Chavis delivered an outstanding message to the audience for the keynote program. There were many students who participated in the Day of Service activity on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Overall, it was a great success!
 - Black History Month Celebration: February 2020
 - There are many events scheduled for the month! We have student clubs, community members, faculty, and staff participating. There is an event almost every single day!
 - There are also three films on each Monday of February (Farmer Film Series) that coincides with Dr. Farmer's life.
 - The keynote speaker is Wednesday, February, 12.
 - Etan Thomas is a prolific author of poetry, nonfiction books, and articles. His 2018 work, *We Matter: Athletes and Activism*, is one of Book Authority's Top Ten best activism books of all time. The African-American Literary Awards named it a best nonfiction book for 2018. Thomas received the 2010 National Basketball Players Association Community Contribution Award for social justice and the 2009 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation Legacy Award. He

writes for The Guardian and is seen on MSNBC and ESPN as a special correspondent. He also co-hosts a radio show, *The Collision*, where sports and politics intersect.

- Find a complete list of the programming here:
<https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/black-history-month-celebration/>
- Women's History Month Celebration: March 2020
 - The theme for Women's History Month is Valiant Women of the Vote: victories and Untold Stories.
 - There are many co-sponsors for these celebrations including the Women's and Gender Studies Program, the College of Education; the Department of Classics, Philosophy and Religion; the Department of English, Linguistics, and Communication; the Department of History and American Studies; the Department of Music; the Department of Psychological Sciences; the Department of Sociology and Anthropology; the Honors Program, the James Monroe Museum; the Great Lives Series, and UMW student organizations.
 - The keynote speaker is Monday, March 23.
 - Mecca Jamilah Sullivan, Ph.D., is the author of the short story collection, *Blue Talk and Love* (2015). In her fiction, she explores the intellectual, emotional, and bodily lives of young black women, through voice, music, and hip-hop inflected magical realist techniques.
 - Find a complete list of the programming here:
<https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/womens-history-month/>
- Islamic Cultural Celebration: April 2020
 - The Islamic Cultural Celebration will kick off right after the Multicultural Fair. It will be held from April 6-10, 2020.
 - More information will be discussed in future meetings. More information will be added as plans are solidified. Find a current list of the programming here:
<https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/islamic-cultural-celebration/>
- Multicultural Fair: April 2020
 - The major cultural programming event of the Spring is the 30th annual Multicultural Fair! The Multicultural Fair is on Saturday, April 4, 2020.
 - The Fair is bringing the fashion show back this year! They are also inviting the first Fair coordinators back to acknowledge their work 30 years later!
 - More information about the Fair can be found here:
<https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/fair/>
- **Social Justice initiatives:**
 - The Social Justice and Leadership Summit is on Saturday, March 14, 2020.
 - This is the first time the Summit will include high school students involved in three special programs. In the future, JFMC is considering opening up

registration to any high school students involved in special programs (i.e., more than 50 students) at which point registration and registration fees will have to be reevaluated.

- In terms of registration, 75 slots will be open for UMW students, 50 slots will be open for those special programs (and 34 spots are filled!), and five UMW faculty will be leading concurrent sessions.

- **Farmer Legacy Council plans for Centennial Celebration**

- Updates on completed events:
 - January 12, 2020: The council laid a wreath by Dr. Farmer's bust to commemorate and remember his 100th birthday. After returning from another trip that afternoon, a group of UMW students and staff made it a point to stop at the bust to acknowledge his birthday.
 - January 13, 2020: The birthday celebration on the first day of classes was a huge success! Approximately 500 people attended!
 - January 16, 2020: Later that week, there was a student-led Dr. James Farmer Tribute Event. This program included performances, spoken word, and reflections. The students did a great job designing and implementing the event.
- Upcoming Spring events: There are many events this semester that are related to the Centennial Celebration. The live calendar is being updated all the time with more events. See here for more information:
<https://www.umw.edu/farmer/events/>
- Upcoming Fall events: The council is already looking ahead and planning for fall events!
 - Dr. Suzie Kim mentioned that she is planning an exhibition for Fall 2020. She is looking to collaborate and partner with the Farmer Legacy Council on the event!
 - They are also looking for ways to integrate students into planning and programming.

- **RISE Peer Mentoring program**

- The program is moving along well! At the end of the Fall Semester, the academic performance and retention rate of the peer mentees were reviewed. These are specifically first-semester new students. Aside from one withdrawal, the average cumulative GPA was a 3.0!
- The program has encouraged students to continue reaching out to their peer mentors. They are very excited about their achievements!
- On March 22, the mentors and mentees will be traveling to DC to attend the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- They are also currently in the process of recruiting peer mentors for the 2020-2021 academic year.
 - If you know of students who are involved or you believe would be great peer mentors, encourage them to apply. They must have a minimum 2.5 GPA to apply. The deadline is Friday, March 13.

- The application link is here:
<https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/rise-peer-mentoring/>

New business:

- The committee discussed different experiences individuals have had with diversity and inclusion in the classroom. The group identified potential training topics, information that people have indicated they would like to know more about, and talked about when might be the best time(s) to offer diversity training.

Next meetings of the semester:

- Monday, March 9 at 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, April 1 at 4:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.