

## James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes

March 9, 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);  
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 February 5, 2020 and approved unanimously.

### Student Representative Updates:

- Anushah Hassan – 10<sup>th</sup> annual Arab Culture Night on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 6pm, Chandler Ballroom, UC. Catering is from Aladin!
- Nehemia Abel – Nehemia is creating a program with the State Department Foreign Service Diplomat-in-Residence for the VA area. She is looking to get more minority students interested in foreign service careers, so she will present on internships, fellowships, and possible jobs.
  - March 19, 2020 from 12:30 – 1:30 pm

### Director's Report –

- **Cultural programming:**
  - Women's History Month Celebration: March 2020
    - The theme for Women's History Month is "Valiant Women of the Vote: Victories and Untold Stories."
    - The next program is on Monday, March 9 about Anita Hill's story
    - 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.
      - She will also be visiting two classes to talk with students about her work.
    - Find a complete list of the programming here:  
<https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/womens-history-month/>
  - Islamic Cultural Celebration:
    - The Islamic Cultural Celebration will kick off right after the Multicultural Fair. It will be held from April 6-10, 2020.

- The keynote speaker will be held on Thursday, April 9
      - Ayesha Noor is the Director of Interfaith Relations at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association in Virginia. She is the recipient of 2002 Benazir Bhutto Scholarship for international students to study in the UK where she completed her Masters in international economics. She has been published in a number of publications including *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Richmond Times Dispatch*, the *Independent* and several others. She has been vocal about women rights and empowerment particularly in Muslim communities. She is the founder of Equal Entrance and lives in Stafford with her husband and 3 children.
    - Find a current list of the programming here: <https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/islamic-cultural-celebration/>
  - Multicultural Fair: April 4, 2020 from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm
    - The planning is underway for the second largest event that the university puts on! This is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Multicultural Fair.
    - The JFMC is working with the university for appropriate planning and responses to the coronavirus. They plan to do whatever is best for the UMW community.
    - More information about the Fair can be found here: <https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/fair/>
  - Passover Seder – April 14 at 6:00 pm in Chandler C
    - It is co-sponsored by Jewish Student Association.
    - This is the last cultural event of the JFMC for the spring semester.
    - They are still doing some finishing touches on the Hillel Center, but it looks great inside. The students are excited and waiting to start moving things in!
  - Program planning for the various cultural celebrations for the next year has already begun. The JFMC is working with student leaders and other campus partners to identify speakers, performers, etc.
- **Social Justice initiatives:**
  - The Social Justice and Leadership Summit is on Saturday, March 14, 2020.
    - There are close to 100 UMW students and high school students registered.
    - JFMC was able to reach out to three different local high school programs to get them involved in the event as well.
    - More information can be found here: <https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/social-justice-and-leadership-summit/>
  - JFMC is also planning another program related to college students and mental health.
    - April 2 at 6:00 pm in the Colonnade room
    - Dr. Sanford is working with a student to sponsor a Mental Health 101 program to address the stigma(s) that comes with mental health.

- The event will not just have a speaker, but will have a professional from the community to help facilitate a discussion around mental health issues, stigmas associated with it, and resources available.
- **Farmer Legacy Council plans for Centennial Celebration**
  - They are currently identifying and finalizing plans on programs and activities for the fall semester.
  - 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/>
- **RISE Peer Mentoring program**
  - On March 22, the mentors and mentees will be traveling to DC to attend the National Museum of African American History and Culture.
    - This trip is being monitored for student travel and updates based on the progression of the coronavirus.
  - 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:**

- Dr. Alex Dunn's invitation to attend diversity webinar *Active Diversity Learning: Redesigning Diversity Training to Enhance Skill Development* by Quinetta Robinson (Apr 16, 2020 12:30 – 1:30 PM Eastern Time).
  - Registration is free, just [click here to provide your name and email address](#)
- Dr. Sanford shared feedback from students on their experiences in the classroom and on campus regarding diversity and bias. She stated that this information will also be shared with administrators as the university continues to explore strategies and offer diversity training for faculty and staff in the near future.
- Dr. Mehdi Aminrazavi spoke about an upcoming event on Friday, April 3, 2020.
  - The title is "Inter-Religious Dialogue in an Age of Intolerance."
  - The morning sessions (9:30 – 12:00 pm) will focus on Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, & Baha'ism).
  - The afternoon sessions (1:30 – 4:00 pm) will focus on Asian religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism).

### **Next meeting of the semester:**

- Wednesday, April 1 at 4:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.