

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes

September 11, 2020

Online Meeting

Members Present:

Dr. Marion Sanford – Director of JFMC;
Dr. Melissa Wells (Education – Chair;
Dr. Alexandra Dunn (Business) – Secretary;
Dr. Suzie Kim (Art History);
Dr. Mehdi Aminrazavi (Classics, Philosophy, & Religion);
Dr. Marisa Martinez-Mira (Modern Languages & Literature);
Makayla Ferrell (Student representative);
Andy Chen (Student representative)

Absent: N/A

Approval of minutes – The minutes were presented from the previous meeting on April 6, 2020 and approved unanimously.

Student Representative Updates:

- Students introduced themselves and told us about their campus involvement
- Dr. Sanford mentioned that these students were fabulous university leaders

Director's Report –

- **Summer activities to help keep connected to students:**
 - JFMC staff made weekly calls, texts, emails, etc. to students
 - Set up JFMC office hours Mondays at 2:00 pm
 - Held a social justice and leadership summit over the summer – Thursday, July 9 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm
 - This was canceled in March when UMW moved online
 - 73 students registered – even in the summer!
 - Supported Run4Justice 5k Fundraiser on July 25 & 26
 - Raised \$2,900 that is going towards student org grants at UMW!
 - These grants are focused on diversity and social justice related initiatives to help educate the UMW community and beyond
 - Held a session, “Being a BIPOC at a PWI” on Monday, July 27 at 6:00 pm for new students
- **Cultural programming:**
 - *All of these events will be held virtually during Fall 2020. Participants will fill out a registration form to receive the Zoom link. All information is posted to the JFMC website.*
 - Cross-Cultural Exchange – August 27th from 4:00 – 6:00 pm
 - Virtual event that replaced cross-cultural BBQ

- ~20 student organizations focused on cultural and social justice clubs were represented
 - Latino Identities Month – September 15 – October 15; kick-off event is next Tuesday
 - Disability Awareness Month Celebration – October 2020 (addendum)
 - Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies Celebration – October 19 – 24
 - Asian Cultural Celebration – October 26 – 31
 - Jewish Cultural Celebration – November 2 – 6
 - Native American Cultural Celebration – November 9 – 13
 - Kwanzaa – Tuesday, December 1 at 6:00 pm
- **Social Justice initiatives:**
 - *All of these events will be held virtually via Zoom.*
 - Four social justice teach-ins scheduled so far
 - COVID-19 in Our Communities – Tuesday, September 8
 - A Call to Civic Action: Making a difference – Thursday, September 17 at 6:00 pm
 - Immigration and the Struggle for Equality and Liberation – Wednesday, September 30 at 6:00 pm (part of Latinos Identities Month)
 - Know Your Rights – Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 pm
 - Social Justice & Leadership Summit – Saturday, October 10 from 12:00 – 5:00 pm via Zoom
 - Greg Palast, investigative journalist – main guest speaker
 - Jessica Machado, director of disability resources – afternoon speaker
 - Concurrent sessions with four faculty members facilitating
 - Human Rights Films Series
 - Theme: Protests and movements taking place in different identity groups in the United States
 - Two films per semester (for the fall term, “Latino Americans: Prejudice and Pride” on Monday, Sept. 28 at 5:00 pm and “Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock” on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 5:00 pm)
- **Farmer Legacy Council plans for Centennial Celebration:**
 - Met to address different events and issues over the summer
 - Extremely excited about the renaming of James Farmer Hall
 - Acknowledged the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act
 - Celebrated the life of Congressman Lewis, who was the Honorary Chair of the Farmer Legacy 2020 Centennial Celebration.
 - Continuing to work on future events and activities
- **RISE Peer Mentoring program:**
 - Largest cohort in program’s history
 - 48 new student mentees and 43 upper-class student mentors
 - First event: Meet & Greet on Tuesday, August 25 was a success

- First workshop: Stress and Time Management on Thursday, September 17

New business:

- Marion posed the following question to the group: How can faculty help promote JFMC events (especially during a mostly virtual semester)?
 - Group ideas:
 - Create a listserv for faculty interested in promoting events
 - Use Google Doc form to add names and contact info
 - Attach fliers to Canvas announcements
 - Faculty can post weekly events to Canvas
 - Students asked for social media postings that they can share in group texts and other apps
 - We can provide a list of ideas TO faculty about how to get students to engage with these events (offer extra credit, use as an asynchronous class activity, etc.).
 - Marion and Melissa are going to look into how to create a listserv similar to the community engagement listserv.
- Mehdi Aminrazavi reported that there is funding available for interreligious dialogue on campus.
- Mehdi Aminrazavi is working on a conference called Religious, Politics, and Social Justice for students. It will be held right around the election.

Next meetings:

- Friday, October 9 at 3:00 pm
- Friday, November 13 at 3:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm.