

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes

April 2, 2021
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 March 19, 2021 and approved unanimously.

Student Representative Updates: No report

- The committee wished them well as they both prepare to graduate in a few weeks!

Director's Report:

- **Cultural programming:**
 - March 30, 2021: Passover Seder
 - This was a great success! The virtual part worked really well. The group will brainstorm how to maintain some of the successful virtual elements as we transition back to face-to-face events.
 - April 5 – 8, 2021: Islamic Cultural Celebration
 - More about the events can be found here:
<https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/islamic-cultural-celebration/>
 - Tuesday, April 6 – The Art of Henna event is happening in a hybrid version! MSA members and eight students at a time can participate – this is the first event of the whole year that will have a face-to-face component! In-person event registration is here:
<https://umw.presence.io/form/the-art-of-henna-class-event-registration>
 - Wednesday, April 7 – Interfaith Harmony Discussion focused on peace, love, unity, and harmony. The panel will discuss the different Abrahamic religions and the similarities they share with their doctrines on promoting peace, love and acceptance in society. The panelists will provide greater understanding of these religions, how they are practiced in different parts of the world, and their global impact.
 - LGBTQ events:

- The JFMC supported a Safe Zone event to recognize and promote the Transgender Day of Visibility on Wednesday, March 31. While labeling was planned for the day, it rained and the committees therefore pivoted. A Padlet was available for students, faculty, and staff to post messages of support.
 - JFMC will also be working with PRISM to celebrate The Day of Silence on April 23, 2021. This day annually spreads awareness about the effects of the bullying and harassment of LGBTQ students. Students take a vow of silence to symbolically represent the silencing of LGBTQ students.
 - Multicultural Fair update:
 - The 31st annual Multicultural Fair is unable to be held face-to-face. JFMC is working on some things to be posted to social media about how the campus community can support and participate in the celebration of the Multicultural Fair that would have taken place on April 10.
 - The JFMC will virtually recognize graduating seniors on Wednesday, April 14 at 6:30 pm who have played a pivotal role in educating about and promoting diversity and inclusion during their time at UMW.
- **Social Justice initiatives:**
 - There are no more events scheduled for this semester, but JFMC is continuously monitoring what is going on with the campus community
 - Great turnout for Social Justice and Leadership Summit – 115 registered students from UMW, Germanna, and two high schools
 - The JFMC is still compiling data for evaluations of the summit
 - The JFMC is also starting to think about how they can expand the summit in terms of content, length of days/times (perhaps a full weekend), and who can attend. The JFMC is interested in expanding to other universities in the area!
- **RISE Peer Mentoring program:**
 - End of year gathering will take place virtually on April 19 at 5:00 pm
 - This event will acknowledge all participants and graduating RISE Peer Mentors. Some of the mentors graduating have served for three consecutive years!
 - In the process of recruiting for new peer mentors
 - Current mentors want to continue and current mentees have expressed interest in becoming mentors
 - The application can be found here: <https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/rise-peer-mentoring/>

Old Business:

- Email to faculty and staff – The group working on getting the bulletin sent out is still working out details so the JFMC can send emails to all faculty/staff. This should hopefully be finalized soon!

- Staff representation on JFMC committee – Our motion to add a staff member to the JFMC Committee was approved by the UFC. After Speaking with Dr. Dolby, Dr. Wells reported that this is now moving to UFOC. UFOC will figure out the process for how a staff member will serve on the committee next year.

New business:

- After the Social Justice Fall Break Trip in 2019, Chris Williams, Christine Henry, and Erin Devlin worked together with the city of Fredericksburg to figure out how to establish a historical marker for the first stop on the Freedom Rides.
 - a. The group reached out to City officials and the Fredericksburg Tourism center and expressed interest in getting a historical marker placed at the original bus station located downtown for the first stop on the Freedom Rides.
 - b. This was no small task! The group presented to the board about why a historical marker should be there and it was approved by the City Council of Fredericksburg. It then moved on to get approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia Historic Resources Department.
 - c. Dr. Sanford was pleased to share that UMW and the JFMC had just received official notification last week from the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Historic Resources of the approval of the highway marker for the First Stop of the 1961 Freedom Rides! This marker will be placed in downtown Fredericksburg at the site of the original bus station across the street from the Post Office!
 - i. This is a big deal for many reasons. It provides another public recognition of Dr. Farmer's legacy and his contributions to the civil rights movement, as well as continue to create awareness of the many different civil rights facts that are part of Fredericksburg's history as many people will see this marker downtown, along with the other civil rights historical standards located there as part of the Freedom Trails.
 - ii. This achievement also coincides with the 60th anniversary of the Freedom Rides.
- Preparing for next year
 - a. Handbook 2.4.1 (p. 17) states: "Each committee shall convene an organizational meeting, prior to the last class day of the current academic year, at which a quorum of the newly constituted committee is present. The purpose of the organizational meeting is to elect officers for the following year; only those individuals who will serve on the committee the following year may vote for officers. Each committee elects a chair and a secretary, and other officers as needed to carry out its duties and notifies the Chair of the University Faculty Council and the Chair of the University Faculty Organization Committee by May 1 of the new officers. The chair must be a voting member of the committee. The secretary may be a voting member or an ex officio member. Ideally, chairs shall have served at least one year on the committee prior to election as chair. No member may serve as chair for more than two years during any single term of service."

- b. Dr. Wells, chair of the JFMC, will conduct this meeting by email for nominations once we know who the new committee members are.
 - i. Marisa Martinez-Mira has been nominated for Chair for the 2021-2022 academic year
 - ii. Dr. Sanford will have the student representatives ready for the first meeting of the fall semester

Announcements:

- Dr. Sanford voiced her appreciation to the student representatives, all students involved in the JFMC, and the current JFMC faculty members for all their time and dedication to the committee's work and support of the JFMC.
- Dr. Wells thanked Dr. Sanford for all the work that she has done in the James Farmer Multicultural Center. The rest of the committee wholeheartedly agreed!

Next meeting:

- Fall 2021 committee meetings will be set by future leadership

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 pm.