

University of Mary Washington

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee

Academic Year of Fall 2021-Spring 2022

Meeting Date: November 17th, 2021

Meeting Location: Zoom

Members in Attendance: Mehdi Aminrazavi (Classics, Philosophy, and Religion), Anna Bedal (Student representative), Melissa Jenkins (COE), Marisa Martinez-Mira (Chair, Modern Languages and Literature), Sarah Morealli (Secretary, Earth and Environmental Sciences-arrived late), Marion Sanford (JFMC Director), Dan Wolfe (COB), and Zahraa Mohammed (Student representative)

Members Absent: Sandrine Stuphin (Director of Student Activities and Engagement)

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm

Meeting Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes associated with the October 6th, 2021 online meeting were approved.
2. Director's Report: The *James Farmer Bulletin* has been sent to member of the UMW Community.
 - a. Cultural Programming Updates:

This week marks the end of the **Jewish Cultural Celebration Event:** The remaining celebrations include the challah-making event (Nov. 17th), a social action event, and Shabbat (on Friday, Nov. 19th)

The **Kwanza Ceremony** will take place on Dec 1st at 6pm in Chandler Ballroom. Kwanza is a cultural celebration in which ancestors are acknowledged.

MLK Celebration will be held after winter break. Rev. Dr. Lakeisha Cook will give the key note address on Wednesday, January 19th at 7pm in the Chandler Ballroom.

The theme of **Black History Month** is "Healing Through History: Recognizing Our Struggles and Celebrating Our Triumphs." The theme for **Women's History Month** is "The Power Behind Healing," which is similar to the national theme. Program proposals for both celebrations are open. Please submit your proposal ASAP. The Black History Month key-note speaker is Dr. Marceline Catlett (Tuesday, Feb 9th at 7pm in Chandler Ballroom). For Women's History Month, UMW Alum Marguerite Bennett ('2010) will give the key-note speech on March 9th (7pm, Chandler Ballroom). Marguerite has made a name for herself in the male-dominated comic book industry.

- b. Social Justice Initiatives

The Latin America Femicide: The Fight to Save Our Women event will occur on Monday, Nov. 29th at 6pm. This issue is still very prevalent throughout the world, not just in Latin-America countries, so it is important to raise awareness about femicide.

- c. RISE Peer Mentor Program

All scheduled events for the Fall semester have concluded: 3 workshops, 2 social hours, and 1 downtown outing were conducted. The end of the semester gathering will occur on Nov. 30th.

- d. Diversity Peer Education Program (DPEP) and Famer Fellows Updates
Marion and Breezy Reaves (SGA president/student coordinator for the DPEP) gave an overview of the DPEP to the Provost's Council. The Provost' Council provided meaningful feedback and support. This program has been getting a lot of exposure: additional requests for diversity and inclusion training has been requested from athletics and Juliette Landphair will provide an overview of the program to the BOV.
Recruitment for next year's Farmer Fellows is occurring now. Marion will send the application to the Committee; please encourage students to apply.

3. Old Business

a. Preferred Names and Pronouns

The Registrar is testing a new system that will:

- Allow students to log-in and add their preferred name/pronouns and
- Integrate the preferred name/pronouns into other systems like Banner and Canvas

The goal is to complete the testing of this system sometime in the Spring of 2022. The Registrar also intends create a FAQ website that will provide students with information on how to change their preferred name and inform them of the situations in which their legal name is required. The Register is still working on how to put preferred names on their EagleOne Card.

b. Note from Malcom T. Holmes (Director of University Marketing)

Mr. Holmes was unable to join today's meeting; however, he is willing to meet with the Committee in the future to discuss the "It Matters" marketing campaign.

4. New Business

a. Encountering Racial Slurs in Historical Literature

At an SGA-sponsored town-hall meeting in Oct. 2020, students expressed concerns about faculty reading from literature with offensive language. Some students did not feel comfortable expressing their concerns in class, and those that did express their opinion experienced repercussions.

When this issue was first introduced, Dr. Sabrina Johnson created a mandatory faculty/staff diversity and inclusion training, but it seems that we need to do more. Training might be beneficial for those faculty who may not know which terms/phrases are considered offensive in today's culture.

The Committee discussed that we (as faculty) need to provide proper context in order to use/teach this type literature meaningfully while making the students feel comfortable and safe. In addition, when we contextualize this material, it must be done in a way that that it connects with our students. This is a good opportunity to reach out to the Center of Teaching to ask for its suggestions.

5. Announcements

- a. James Farm Hall Dedication: November 18th at 4pm- a historic moment in UMW's history.

6. Spring 2022 Meetings: The committee will not hold a January 2022 meeting. Instead it's next meeting will be sometime between February 14th and 18th. Marisa will send out a Doodle Poll to determine the day/time of the February meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah A. Morealli