University of Mary Washington

James Farmer Multicultural Center Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting

Academic Year of Fall 2021-Spring 2022

**Meeting Date:** March 18, 2022

**Meeting Location:** Zoom

**Members in Attendance:** Anna Bedal (Student Representative), Melissa Jenkins (COE), Marisa Martinez-Mira (Chair, Modern Languages and Literatures), Marion Sanford (JFMC Director), Sandrine Sutphin (Director of Student Activities and Engagement & USC representative)

**Members Absent**: Mehdi Aminrazavi (Classics, Philosophy, and Religion), Zahraa Mohammed (Student Representative), Sarah Morealli (Secretary, Earth and Environmental Sciences), Dan Wolf (COB),

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm

**Meeting Business:**

1. Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the minutes associated with the February 14th, 2022 meeting.
2. Director Report:
   1. Cultural Programming: Consult the *James Farmer Bulletin* for more information on any of the cultural celebrations listed below.

* Events associated with **Women’s History Month** conclude next week.
* **Arab Culture Week** begins next week (March 28th) and culminates with **Arab Culture Night** on March 31st.
* The JFMC is working closely with the Muslim Student Association in planning the **Islamic Culture Celebration** (April 4-8). The JFMC will distribute informational posters soon.
* For the first time since 2019, the **Multicultural Fair** will take place on April 9th, rain or shine. If the weather cooperates, activities will take place along Campus Walk and Jefferson Square. If it rains, the Fair will be moved indoors, except the food vendors. The craft and nonprofit vendors will relocate to the Chandler Ballroom.
* The JFMC and Jewish Student Association invite the UMW community to celebrate **Passover** on April 19th.
  1. Social Justice Initiatives
* Due to inclement weather, the **Social Justice and Leadership Summit** was cancelled. Hopefully, it can be rescheduled for the early fall.
* The **International Access to Education for Children** Event will take place on Monday, March 21st. This event is part of the Women’s History Month Celebration.
  1. Farmer Fellows Program:

Next year, UMW will have 13 Farmer Fellows: 3 returning and 10 new Fellows. The new Fellows have begun their training and will start facilitating diversity education sessions in August.

As students, the Farmer Fellows have the unique ability to effectively communicate with their peers about diversity and inclusion in ways that faculty/staff/administration cannot. In fact, students seem to be very receptive to the peer diversity education.

1. New Business
   1. Conversations with Associate Provost for Equity and Inclusions/Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Shavonne Shorter

Since arriving to UMW on January 3rd, Dr. Shorter has been enthusiastically involved with many aspects of the UMW community. She is committed to ensuring that the University’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion mission, vision, and goals speak to the present and future. Below is a brief discussion on her current projects:

* Dr. Shorter intends to develop a “bias response team” to help the University respond to incidence of bias. This Team will consist of different constituents of the campus community.
* She has started hiring searches for two positions: Director of Compliance and Title IX Investigator

Next year, the Committee would like to invite Dr. Shorter to one of our meetings to discuss how we can work together.

* 1. Members/positions for AY 2022-2023.
* New Committee members for AY 2022-2023 will include two new student representatives and a replacement for Mehdi who will rotate off the committee.
* The Committee will vote on new officers at the April meeting. Marisa and Sarah are both willing to reprise their positions as chair and secretary, respectively, for AY 2022-2023.

1. Announcements
   1. Conference on Race and Religion (March 29th and 30th) will include:
      1. Eminent keynote speaker: Shannon Lanier, a descendent of Thomas Jefferson and
      2. A panel discussion on Race and Religion Today in America: Trump and the Post-Trump Era
   2. Transgender Day of Visibility (March 31st 11am-2pm)
   3. Arab Culture Night (March 31st)
   4. Day of Silence (April 8th)-- This is likely to be a two-part event:
      1. Part 1: A moment of silence outside Monroe and Virginia Halls (12pm on April 8th)
      2. Part 2: A “Break the Silence” event (around 6pm on April 8th) will feature student performances
      3. Also, Day of Silence t-shirts will be available a week prior to the event so they can be worn on April 8th
2. Next meeting: Week of 4-8 April.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 pm.