

University of Mary Washington

James Farmer Multicultural Center Advisory Committee

Academic Year of Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

Meeting Date: November 9th, 2022

Meeting Location: Zoom

Members in Attendance: Marisa Martinez-Mira (Chair, Modern Languages and Literatures), Sarah Morealli (Secretary, Earth and Environmental Sciences), Marion Sanford (JFMC Director), Alicia Tisdale (Assistant Director of Financial Aid, USC representative), Desmond Villalba (Chemistry and Physics), Cameron Zakreski (Student representative), Sara Zhou (Student representative)

Members Absent: Melissa Jenkins (COE), Sayan Sarkar (COB)

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 3:36 pm

Meeting Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes associated with the September 28th, 2022 online meeting were approved.
2. JFMC Director's Report: Marion provided an update on several JFMC programming events. A brief description of each program is provided below. More information can be found within the *James Farmer Bulletin*.

a. Cultural Programming Updates:

At the time of this meeting, the JFMC is in the middle of the Native American Celebration. The Jewish Cultural Celebration will occur next week from November 14th-18th. The final cultural event of the semester is the Kwanza Celebration which will take place on Nov. 30th at 6 pm in the Chandler Ballroom.

In the spring, the community can look forward to more programming including the MLK Celebration, Black History Month, Women's History Month, and the Multicultural Fair. The JFMC is accepting program proposals for Black History and Women's History Month. Any member/group of the UMW Community can submit a proposal. The Multicultural Fair is scheduled for April 1st.

b. Diversity and Inclusion

The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) and the Safe Zone are updating the list of gender-neutral bathrooms on Campus. The gender-neutral restroom list can be found here: <https://students.umw.edu/multicultural/safe-zone-program/safe-zone-resources/>.

The Admissions Open House scheduled for Saturday, November 12 will focus on diversity. Members of diversity-related clubs will participate in a Diversity Panel and discuss what it is like to attend a predominantly-white institution.

Dr. Shorter (Associate Provost for Equity and Inclusion/CDO) hosted two diversity meet-and-greets with faculty and staff. Here, she met with faculty/staff who identify as multicultural and/or differently-abled. She would like to determine how to further engage these groups.

The Office of Disability Resources intends to host an accessibility workshop soon. Safe Zone activities continue with a book club meeting.

c. RISE Peer Mentoring

The RISE program has held 3 workshops throughout the fall. The next RISE events include bowling (Nov. 19th) and the end-of-the-semester gathering (Nov. 29th). Recruitment for next year's peer mentors has begun, please encourage students to apply.

d. Diversity Peer Educators/Farmer Fellows

The Farmer Fellows program is recruiting new Fellows for next academic year. There is a recruitment meeting on November 17th at 5 pm where interested students can learn about the program and what is required to be a Farmer Fellow.

3. New Business

a. Fundraising for the JFMC

Since the JFMC provides programming that is beneficial to the entire Fredericksburg community, the JFMC is working with Advancement to identify local companies/agencies that could sponsor large-scale programs and events (i.e. the Multicultural Fair). So far, the JFMC received a sponsorship from GEICO, which will fully fund the Social Justice and Leadership Summit in the spring of 2023. This sponsorship will cover the cost of guest speakers, supplies, food, and registration items.

JFMC will also participate in Giving Tuesday (there will be a matching challenge) on Nov. 29th and the Giving Day in April.

b. Addressing recent antisemitic rhetoric.

Recently, high-profile celebrities and athletes have made antisemitic statements. We have also seen recent antisemitic comments on Yik Yak. With Yik Yak being anonymous, we are not sure exactly the location of these individuals. These sentiments do not align with UMW's ASPIRE philosophy.

President Paino and Dr. Shorter have met with students within the Jewish community to offer their support and hear additional concerns.

4. Future Meetings: Please send Marisa your schedule for the next semester and she will find a time for us to meet. We will continue meet on Zoom.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah A. Morealli