

University of Mary Washington

James Farmer Multicultural Center Advisory Committee

Academic Year of Fall 2022 - Spring 2023

Meeting Date: January, 25th, 2023

Meeting Location: Zoom

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

Members Absent: Cameron Zakreski (Student representative)

Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm

Meeting Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: The minutes associated with the November 9th, 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:**
 - The **MLK Celebration** was very successful. There were about 80 students who participated in the Day of Service.
 - February is **Black History Month** and celebrations will occur throughout the month.
 - The kick-off event is the **Southern Soul Food Lunch** on February 1st from 11am-3am at the top of the CRUC.
 - **Gospelfest**, which hasn't been celebrated since 2020, will occur on Saturday, February 4th at 3pm.
 - **Black History Keynote speaker:** Wisdom O. Cole, the National Director of the NAACP Youth & College Division, will speak on Wednesday February 8th.
 - The next feature film in the **Human Rights Film Series** is "Teach Us All" which focuses on the disparity in the education system.
 - **Women's History Month** will begin in March. The theme is Celebrating Women and Telling Our Stories.
 - b. **Social Justice Initiatives**
 - The first **Social Justice Teach-in**, Race and Language, will occur on January 26th at the CRUC.
 - The **Social Justice Leadership Summit** will take place on March 11th. UMW Faculty and Germanna will facilitate sessions for participants.
 - c. **Diversity and Inclusion**
 - Laura Wilson has returned from sabbatical and resumes as director the Safe Zone. Safe Zone will have a book club discussion in February
 - Trans Day and Disability Awareness Day are schedule for March
 - d. **Diversity Peer Educators/Farmer Fellows (FF)**
 - The Fellows are preparing diversity presentations to the Student Athletic Leadership Team and the PELT Program.

- FF training sessions start after spring break. Training continues each week for the remainder of the semester and throughout the summer. Marion is looking to hire/appoint two more Farmer Fellows. If you have students who are interested in advancing diversity, inclusions, and equity at UMW, please send them to Marion.

3. Committee Business

a. **ASPIRE Values Update and the Increase in Hate Incidents**

The Committee discussed the occurrence of antisemitic and racist comments YikYak, not only at UMW, but on other college campuses too. UMW's Administration is trying to determine how to best address this issue and encourage everyone to embrace ASPIRE values. UMW's ASPIRE values will be emphasized and celebrated during APSIRE Week, which begins on April 10th. In response to the increase in antisemitic incidences on college campuses, Virginia's Attorney General sent a statement to all Colleges/Universities to implore them to address the issue.

4. Announcements:

- Lunar New Year:** February 12 at 5:30 in the Chandler Ballroom. Organizers intend to make this's years Lunar New Year Celebration more inclusive with representation of Chinese and Korean culture.
- Women's History Month:** The OPTICA Organization is sponsoring a Women in STEM Night on Friday, March 24th in the Digital Auditorium. OPTICA is looking for Women in STEM outside of Academia for a Panel discussion to discuss various career paths.

5. Future Meetings: The next meeting will be held on March 8th, 2023 4-5pm

6. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:49pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah A. Morealli