

**University of Mary Washington
James Farmer Multicultural Center Advisory Committee
Academic Year of Fall 2025 – Spring 2026**

Meeting Date: October 17, 2025

Meeting Location: Zoom

**Members in Attendance: Nora Kim (chair), Marion Sanford (director, JFMC),
Coorain Devin, Marco Millones Mayer, Rachel Graefe-Anderson, Don Lee, Vivian
Garnett-Lynch**

**Members Absent: Destiny Ward, Valerie Palomares-Torres (both had classes at the
meeting time)**

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Meeting Business:

- I. Approval of Minutes from September 22, 2025 – Moved by Rachel Graefe-Anderson and seconded by Nora Kim. Approved unanimously.**
- II. JFMC Director’s Report – Marion**
 - A. Cultural Programming Update**
 - 1. Disability Awareness Month.**
 - **The Silent Dinner event was held on October 15, 2025. The dinner was sponsored by Talk to the Hands in Chandler AB. The event was non-speaking to acknowledge how individuals with this disability communicate and engage.**
 - **The major speaker, Professor Robert McRuer of English at George Washington University will speak on October 21, 2025 in Chandler A/B Ballroom. The professor specializes in disability studies, queer theories and critical theory.**
 - 2. GSMA (Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies) Celebration.**
 - **Shenandoah, a one-woman performance, will perform on queer history in the United States. The event will include singing, dancing and interactive participation. This event will take place October 23, 2025 at 7:00 pm in Chandler C.**
 - **The GMSA celebration will end with the annual PRISM Prom at 8:00 pm in the Chandler Ballroom on Saturday, October 25, 2025.**
 - 3. Asian Cultural Celebration, October 26 – November 1st, 2025. It will end with the Taste of Asia event on Saturday, November 1, 2025 in the CRUC beginning at 4:00 pm.**
 - 4. The Native American Cultural Celebration will begin November 10th – 14th, 2025. On November 13, 2025, Louis Campbell will perform and speak about the Native American culture. It will be held in the Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center at 7:00 pm.**
 - 5. The Jewish Cultural Celebration will begin on November 17th – November 21st.**
 - 6. The Women’s History committee will have their first meeting on Monday, October 27th at 12 noon.**
 - 7. The Multicultural Fair is scheduled for Saturday, April 11, 2026.**

III. RISE Peer Mentoring:

- 1. There are two events scheduled this month: a field trip to the Farmer's Market on Saturday, October 18th, and a Banner workshop on Wednesday, October the 22nd at 5:00 pm. The planning for the schedule of events during Spring 2026 is underway. There has been steady engagement with program activities.**
- 2. In Spring 2026, recruitment will begin for new RISE peer mentors.**

IV. Other Initiatives:

- 1. Dr. Sanford spoke with Dr. Ruth Davison. Dr. Davison is UMW's Title IX and ADA Compliance Officer. She shared updates concerning accessibility for the campus community. They have replaced the furniture in classrooms 138 and 140 in Farmer Hall. It is now more user friendly for students with some type of physical mobility and accommodating to students larger in stature. UMW has 22 classrooms and the goal is to make sure each room has accessible furniture. Combs, Farmer, Jepson and Goolrick Halls have had some furniture replaced. The goal is to complete the remaining 15 classrooms spaces.**

Other information was shared about how the University is working to improve elevator service, install more ramps on campus, and enhancing software platforms to check for accessibility of different documents, including documents that contain math/science equations, etc.

The Farmer Fellows participated in the Harvest Festival on September 26, 2025. They were able to talk with students interested in the Farmer Fellows program. They will have an educational session on October 29, 2025 and November 11, 2025. The goal is to recruit 4 – 6 more students.

V. Announcements

- 1. We have students that intern with the Fredericksburg Office of Elections. Also, UMW Votes is hosting numerous events on campus, including a voter registration drive. The importance of voting was also discussed at the UMW College Chapter of the NAACP summit on September 20, 2025.**

Future Meetings Dates – TBD

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.