

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

**Meeting Date: September 22, 2025**

**Meeting Location: Zoom**

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

**Members Absent: Vivian Garnett-Lynch, Don Lee**

**Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.**

**Meeting Business:**

**I. Approval of Minutes from March 27, 2025 – Motioned by Rachel Graefe-Anderson and seconded by Nora Kim. Minutes were approved unanimously.**

**II. JFMC Director’s Report – Marion**

**A. JFMC Advisory Committee Updates -**

**1. JFMC has updated its mission and vision statements. They are listed on the JFMC website. There were also updates and changes to a couple of programs, different initiatives of the Center, as well as other links on the website.**

**The JFMC will continue to provide cultural programming for the campus community. They will also maintain a focus on civic engagement. Dr. Sanford stated they are working collaboratively with different offices, departments, and student clubs with their programming outreach.**

**B. Safe Zone Training:**

**1. The Safe Zone Program is currently on pause. The previous director stepped down this spring, and a new director has not been identified. Dr. Shorter can be contacted with any questions concerning the status of the Safe Zone program.**

**An updated list all-gender restrooms is currently being constructed. The list will be posted in the near future.**

**C. Cultural Programming Update:**

**1. Latino Identities Month:**

**On Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm in the HCC Digital Auditorium, there will be the program, “Educando Nuestra Comunidad,” which will educate our community on the current climate of immigration, Latino history, and modern situations that impact the Latino community. On Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> in the HCC Digital Auditorium at 6:30 pm LSA and ASA will sponsor a game night. The celebration of LIM will conclude with a movie showing at 7:00 pm on Ball Circle.**

**2. Disabilities Awareness Month:**

**The kick-off for the awareness month will be on October 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 am with the Table Fair event in front of Lee Hall. Adaptive Sports Day is October 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am**

in Goolrick Gym celebrating the unique abilities of persons with disabilities. Sportable, a company out of Richmond, VA, will host different games and sport competitions.

**3. GSMA (Gender and Sexual Minorities and Allies) Celebration:**

We will celebrate our LGBTQ+ community with a kick-off event on Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 – 6:00 pm in front of Lee Hall.

**4. Asian Cultural Celebration:**

We will begin this celebration with arts and crafts on Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of CRUC. On October 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm, University Dining and ASA will host an Asian Cultural Dinner.

**D. Other Initiatives:**

**1. Last year, JFMC sponsored our Civic Engagement and Leadership Summit in the Fall of 2024, where we highlighted the importance of civic engagement. We postponed it this Fall but are still engaging in conversations with students pertaining to the importance of voting. The UMW community is now under one precinct which makes the UMW students a significant part of the Fredericksburg community. With the current local and gubernatorial election approaching, students' votes can make a difference.**

**2. RISE Peer Mentoring:**

The peer mentoring program pairs new students in the program with upper-class students who will serve as their mentors in a one-on-one relationship for the entire year. We selected 29 students this year with close to 60 that applied. We had to establish a wait list. We have 25 upper class mentors this year. Already, there have been four events this semester. They included a Meet and Greet on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>, an outing at the Fred Nats game on September 4<sup>th</sup>, a scavenger hunt on September 12<sup>th</sup> to help them learn more about the campus and what UMW offers, and a “Life Skills” workshop on September 17<sup>th</sup>. There are other activities scheduled in October and November before going home in December.

**3. Farmer Fellows:**

We have eleven Farmer Fellows this fall semester. Nine of them presented 18 educational sessions to the first-year students during the New Student Arrival week. The sessions discussed how individuals receive and share information, media literacy, civil discourse and the UMW ASPIRE values emphasizing respect, integrity and inclusivity. Three of the Farmer Fellows enrolled in the IDIS course. These students will have worked on different projects for the program, as well as reflect on their experiences as Farmer Fellows.

The students will also participate in the UMW Harvest Festival to talk about who they are, what they offer, and potentially recruit new students to the program.

The Global Cultural Proficiency course, IDIS 261, is still going through the approval process. The next step is waiting on the UFC.

**Future Meeting dates: October 17, 2025 at 10 am.**

**Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.**