

Minutes, September 5, 2014

Present: Andreas Broscheid (chair and scribe), Erica Cavanagh, Jenny Davis, Lindsey Harvell, Marilou Johnson, Besi Muhonja, Christine Robinson, William Van Norman

1. Announcements

- Global Connections – coffee and tea with/for international students, Fridays 3-5, Hoffman Hall Lounge
- Daniel Beatty, Emergency – solo theatre piece, Friday, September 12, 8pm, Forbes Center
- Furious Flower exhibitions Sept. 15-Oct. 3, Lisanby Museum
- International Week, September 22-26,
<http://www.jmu.edu/international/get-involved/iweek/index.shtml>
- Gary Packard, US Air Force Academy, “Gays in the Military: Why the All-Volunteer Force Didn’t ‘Break’ with the Repeal of ‘Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.’” September 22, 5:30pm, Harrison 2105
- Wole Lagunju Exhibition Reception, Duke Hall Gallery, Sept 22, 6pm
- Leah Hollis, “Changing Agents: Inclusive Excellence as Path to Innovation”, Founder and President of Patricia Berkly, LLC, Dominion Lecture Series, Sept 22, 7-8pm, Transitions
- Paula Vogel, How I Learned to Drive, Sept 23-27, 8pm, Forbes Center
- Furious Flower conference, Sept. 24-27,
<http://www.jmu.edu/furiousflower/2014-conference.shtml>
- ODS Open House, Sept. 24, SSC 1202
- Marriage Dilemmas of Urban Indian Women, Shagufa Kapadia, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India; Sept. 25, Rose 5211, 12:30-1:30
- Namoli Brennet, singer-songwriter, Sept. 26, 5:30-7, Festival Lawn
- Martha Nussbaum lecture on Friday, September 26, 4pm
- Harrisonburg International Festival, September 27, 12-6, Hillandale Park
- **Visiting Scholar Nominations due by Tuesday, September 30**
- October 1-5, International Film Festival, Court Square Theater

Additionally, Bill Van Norman announced that in early November, the Spanish documentary filmmaker Pilar Pérez Solano will be at JMU as part of the visiting scholars program. On November 4, she will be present for a showing and discussion of her film, *Las Maestras de la Republica*, on women teachers in Republican-era Spain. The presentation will be on November 4 at 6pm in Harrison 2105; Pilas Pérez Solano will be on campus for class discussions on November 3.

Besi Muhonja said a few words in support of the Africana Studies and the Furious Flower conferences. The Africana Studies conference, which will take place on October 16 and 17, will particularly emphasize

student-faculty interaction. The Furious Flower conference (dates see above) features a particularly impressive high-level roster of African American poets and musicians.

2. Discussion of Fall activities

Andreas Broscheid briefly summarized the outcomes of the last council meeting in Spring. The council had planned to focus in Fall on two types of projects: First, roundtable discussions between CAL faculty and students engaged in diversity-related activities at JMU, and, second, an interdisciplinary course with a focus on diversity as a topic. For the first faculty/student roundtable, Broscheid suggested a focus on sexual assault and attempts to prevent it and support survivors at JMU. The ensuing council discussion highlighted the following points:

- A discussion on preventing sexual assault has to make sure that it does not (just) tell women how to stay safe. For example, male attitudes - such as the development of empathy of (not only adolescent?) men - was viewed as an important part of the discussion.
- A discussion on this topic should not just preach to the choir but reach the larger JMU community as well.
- Such a discussion would benefit from more information on what is currently being done at JMU to update sexual assault policies, training, and survivor support.
- Such a roundtable discussion could be used to move the conversation at JMU towards changing attitudes towards, and definitions of, sexual consent.
- It was suggested that a focus on sexual assault, its prevention, and its role in gender relations, would be an important part of the interdisciplinary course on diversity mentioned above.

The discussion addressed a number of decisions that such a roundtable discussion requires:

- Should the discussion be only with students, or should other administrative actors involved in sexual assault prevention, punishment, and survivor support be invited?
- Should the discussion target faculty in Arts and Letters, or should it be for the whole university?

In addition, several tasks were identified as necessary to advance the project at the October meeting:

- For background information purposes, updated policy documents from JMU and other institutions should be made available. Christine Robinson and Besi Muhonja promised to identify such documents; Andreas Broscheid will circulate them through a common Dropbox folder.
- Organizations and persons involved in JMU's sexual assault response have to be identified. Erica Cavanagh and Jenny Davis said that they would work on this.
- Andreas Broscheid promised to identify a venue for a roundtable discussion, so that the council can decide in its October meeting to go ahead with the event without excessive delay.

The council did not have time to address the interdisciplinary course as well. The October meeting will attempt to address it.