

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

University Standing Committee: Harrelson Fund Committee  
Academic Year Covered by Report: 2014-2015  
Date Report Submitted: May 15, 2015  
Report Submitted by: Debbie Currie  
Number of times committee met: 4 meetings were held. Additional business was conducted via email and by phone

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Chair Debbie Currie and Past Chair Sean Cassidy met with the Faculty Senate Governance Committee on October 14, 2014 to provide an update on the Committee's activities, operations, and needs. Currie and Cassidy emphasized that the funding available to the Committee makes it difficult to attract a high quality speaker to campus each year. Obtaining additional funding is vital to the future success of the Harrelson Lecture, a lecture with a history of more than 50 years at North Carolina State University.

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE**

Consistent with the charge by the Chancellor to the Harrelson Fund Committee and the language contained in the *Will* of Colonel John W. Harrelson, the Committee agreed to focus its work on delivering a self-standing Harrelson Lecture during the Spring 2015 semester.

The Committee developed a list of potential distinguished individuals to consider for the 2015 Lecture. The list included nominations from Committee members and suggestions from colleagues.

Following a rigorous review process, the Committee selected aquanaut, oceanographic explorer, conservationist and documentary filmmaker Fabien Cousteau to deliver the 2015 Harrelson Lecture. As the first grandson of the legendary Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Fabien continues to fulfill his family's legacy to protect our planet's immense and endangered marine habitats. From his vast experience in the field, coupled with a degree in environmental economics from Boston University, he has refined a public policy platform grounded by his strong belief that environmental discipline can be the basis for innovative solutions that strike a balance between regional and global environmental problems and the realities of market economies.

The Harrelson Lecture was delivered on April 6, 2015 in the Talley Student Union Ballroom. Mr. Cousteau's lecture, entitled "Oasis in Space: The Great Ocean Adventure", was attended by an estimated 450 people. Mr. Cousteau was introduced by Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor Warwick Arden.

During his visit to NC State, Mr. Cousteau had lunch with Chancellor Woodson, the Committee members, and students and faculty. He also attended a reception following the lecture.

Funding for the speaker was provided by the Harrelson Fund. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the Department of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences and the University Scholars Program for their generous sponsorship (\$940.50 and \$1,312.50, respectively) of the luncheon and reception; and to the University Sustainability Office and the NCSU Libraries for their in-kind promotional support.

Committee members were asked to express an interest in serving as Chair for the upcoming academic year. Dr. Chris Gunter, Associate Professor in the Department of Horticultural Science, responded to the call and has agreed to serve as Chairperson during 2015-16.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR REVISION OF CHARGE AND/OR MEMBERSHIP CONFIGURATION (if applicable)**

Recommend that a seat be added to the Committee roster for a Faculty Senate representative, as is customary for University Standing Committees.