
**Standing Committee
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY**

University Standing Committee on Speakers and Lectures

Committee Meeting Minutes

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. November 12, 2019
206 Holladay Hall

Committee members present (check applicable):

Marian Fragola	X	Kristin Koch	
Troy Pinkins	X	Lossie Rooney	X
James Brunet	X	Karessa Lattimore	
Kevin Potter	X	Katharine Stewart	X
Todd See	X		
Sheri Schwab			
Kari Lewis			

Call To Order - Committee Chair-Marian Fragola

Agenda

1. Recap from David Wallace Wells visit

Feedback from attendees:

Most feedback from the surveys was positive, although some people thought the speaker was boring. Marian will work with Kristin on obtaining additional data from the surveys.

Committee feedback:

- Kevin thought it was a good presentation, good turnout, and a successful event.
- Troy shared David Wallace-Wells was a great speaker
- Lossie stated the dinner conversation was engaging.
- Marian said the technology challenges were frustrating, and Witherspoon may not be the best venue. Talley Student Union is likely a better venue. Marian was happy with the attendance; we sold out 450 tickets, half students, some faculty/staff and people from the community.
- The video of David Wallace-Wells is available on the committee's webpage until April with a unity ID. How should this information be advertised? Lossie can send to the graduate students listserv. Katharine will ask Marielle if an announcement stating the video is available can go in Provost newsletter.

- General comments include, support is better at Talley Student Union, and Talley is more representative of NC State University. The decision to use Witherspoon was based on where the scholars meet and it guaranteed 200 students in attendance. The speaker's check was returned for invalid address, but was remailed to the correct address.

Takeaways for next time

- Lossie shared there were several questions for the speaker after the talk, and asked if there were significant people who indicated they were not interested? Also, did the committee give people a question/prompt to think about before the talk?
 - Marian replied that we did not give the audience a prompt; there were lots of questions and the committee had to stop taking questions due to time restriction. The committee should think about an engagement question for the audience in the future, or request questions prior to the talk. Another consideration is to have a sit down question and answer session after the talk to discuss specific questions with students or a specified group.

2. The Committee's role with other campus speakers

- How can the committee partner with other groups that may bring speakers to campus?
- Katharine stated there is a difference between the mission of the Harrelson Fund and the Speakers and Lectures Committee. The Harrelson Fund has specific criteria for the use of funds. The Speakers and Lectures committee can partner in different ways, one way is financially with Harrelson funds if the speaker meets the requirements; the committee needs to figure out how they want to partner with others.
 - Marian asked does the committee have the right to make that decision on how and when to partner with others.
 - Katharine shared as long as the decision to partner does not conflict with the Harrelson Fund mission, and is in line with the purpose of the funds. The committee will have to decide how and with whom to partner with using limited funds, and if we want to partner more often or wait until there are enough funds to sponsor a speaker. Since the Harrelson Fund is an endowment, funds cannot be deposited into the fund, and the committee should consider how this factors into decisions about who to support financially. Katharine suggested talking to Adrian and/or Karen in the Provost Office to determine if an account can be created to use if other departments want to contribute funds to support Harrelson speakers.

New Business

1. **Next Steps - Spring Speaker?**

- Should the committee wait until funds accrue, or find out if speakers are coming to campus in the spring that we would consider partnering with?
- The committee should be mindful that we can partner with support, and partnerships do not always have to happen with funds.
- Also, the committee needs to seek approval from the Provost to sponsor speakers. If the Provost says he prefers another group to be flagstaff, the Speakers and Lectures Committee can provide support rather than offering Harrelson funds.
- The groups who may consider bringing speakers in the spring are Parks Scholars students, University Scholars, and the Harvard speaker who couldn't come in fall may be available in spring.
- How much is the Harrelson endowment? The endowment is roughly \$8000 per year, and the committee spent \$15,000-\$17,000 for David Wallace-Wells' visit.
- The committee will wait until February to meet again. Marian will let the committee know if she learns of other speakers for spring semester.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 a.m.