

ANNUAL REPORT

University Standing Committee Committee on Speakers and Lectures

Academic Year Covered by Report FY2020

Date Report Submitted June 1, 2020

Report Submitted by Marian Fragola

Number of times committee met: Four

Name of Chair Elect (if known): Marian Fragola

RECOMMENDATIONS

No recommendations were made regarding the composition or charge of the committee. It would be valuable, however, to retain representation and participation from both a graduate student and undergraduate student in this committee, as we want to ensure that invited speakers are of interest to students. This committee will follow the university's COVID-19 response vis a vis large group gatherings, so plans for future speakers in the following year will be made as information becomes available.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTIVITIES OF COMMITTEE

The committee met four times in the Academic Year 2019-2020: September 4, October 11 and November 12, 2019, and March 19, 2020. We also met on June 25, 2019, which was not reflected in 2018/19 annual report. In July the committee received new members.

Throughout the summer and through the fall of 2019, the primary work of the committee was to plan, arrange, and coordinate the visit of journalist David Wallace-Wells, an American journalist known for his writings on climate change and his 2019 book *The Uninhabitable Earth*. A committee member had heard Wallace-Wells in a radio interview and recommended him as a speaker; the committee agreed that he would be an appropriate speaker for the mission of the Speakers and Lectures committee and the topic of climate change would be of interest to the campus community.

We worked with the Lavin Agency to secure Wallace-Wells, who gave a public talk on October 15, 2019 in the Witherspoon Student Center to an audience of approximately 400. After a prepared talk, Wallace-Wells took questions from the audience and signed books (the booksale was coordinated through the NC State Bookstores). The committee also took Mr. Wallace-Wells out to dinner following the public event.

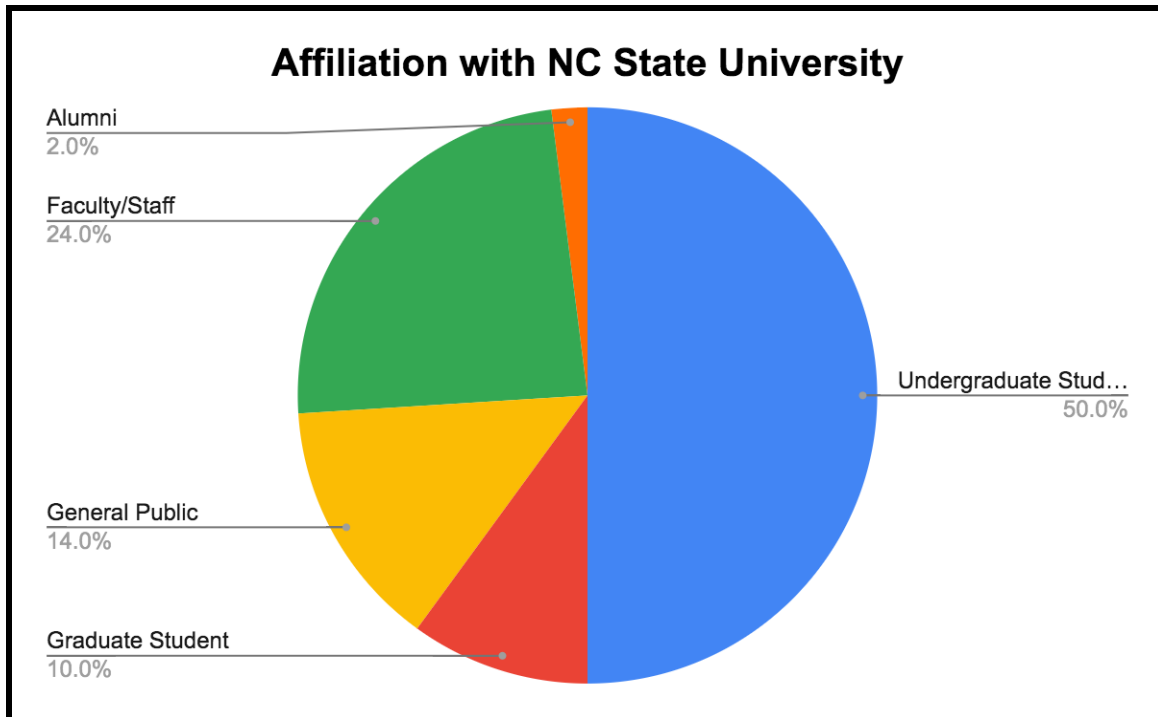
All committee members helped to publicize the talk through their various constituencies. We worked with the University Scholars Program to combine the public talk with the Scholars Forum so that the talk was attended by approximately 200 students in the University Scholars Program.

In addition, the committee (with leadership from committee member Kristin Koch) developed a feedback form to have an assessment tool. Results from that form are below.

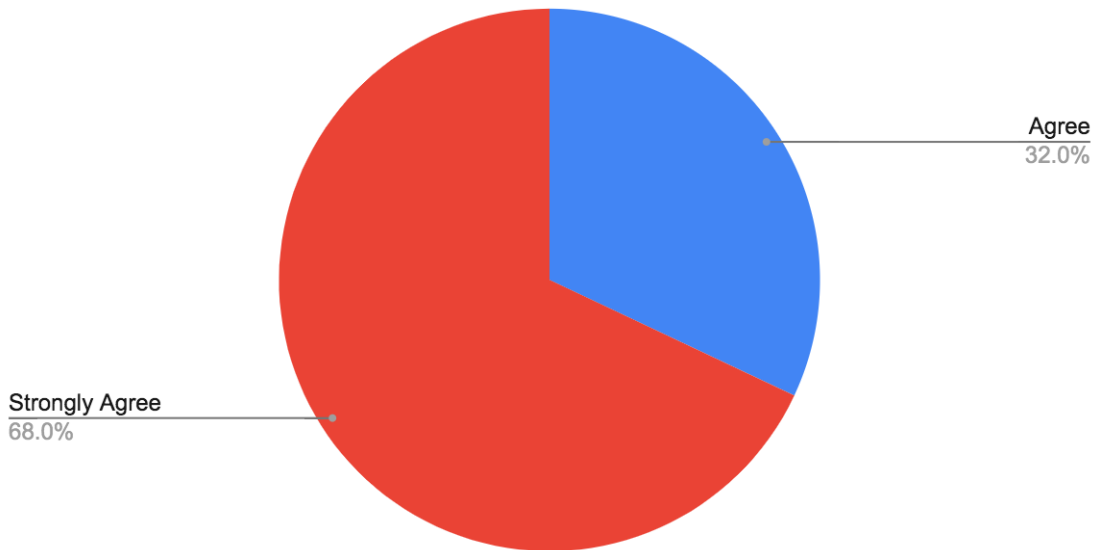
Feedback Responses (53 responses)

Quantitative Responses

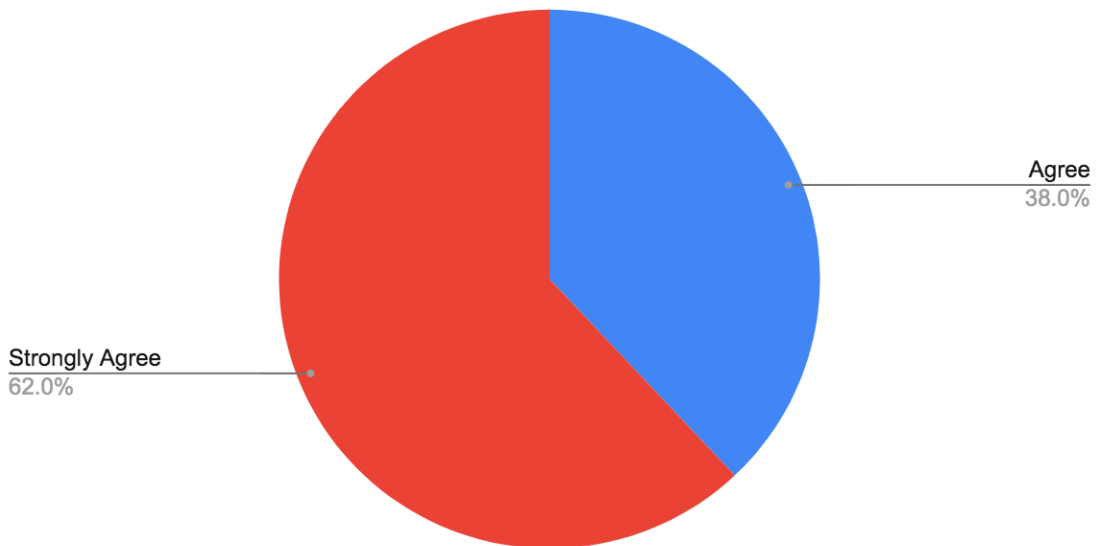
- Half of the survey responses were from undergraduate students
- Of those who responded to the survey, Alumni/General Public and Graduate Students **strongly agreed** that David Wallace-Wells was an appropriate, high-quality speaker to bring to campus
 - About **half** of the Faculty/Staff and Undergraduate Students **strongly agreed**, while the rest only **agreed**
- Alumni and Graduate Students **strongly agreed** that they learned valuable information relevant to their interests and needs from this event
 - About **half** of the Undergraduate Students and General Public **strongly agreed**, while the rest only **agreed**
 - **Most** Faculty/Staff members only **agreed**



David Wallace-Wells was an appropriate, high-quality speaker to bring to campus.



I learned valuable information relevant to my interests and needs from this speaker session.



Using both the assessment tool and from the committee's post-event conversation, we were pleased with the visit from David Wallace-Wells and feel that he brought a timely, well-researched and valuable perspective to the campus audience.

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

None.