

**Standing Committee  
NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Speakers and Lecturers  
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. October 7, 2020  
Zoom-<https://ncsu.zoom.us/j/93537420323>

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Committee members present (check applicable):

Marian Fragola	X	Kristin Koch	X
Troy Pinkins	X	Elise Greeley	X
James Brunet	X	Katharine Stewart	X
Kevin Potter	X		
Todd See	X		
Sheri Schwab			
Kari Lewis	X		

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 a.m.. It was determined that a quorum was present and the meeting could conduct business. Dr. Katharine Stewart reviewed the open meeting law.

1. Introductions

- a. Committee members introduced themselves, roles on campus, length of time on the committee, and shared one good thing about this week.

2. Recap of the Committee Charge

- a. This committee is a renovated version of the Harrelson Committee; there is a Harrelson fund with a balance of approximately \$35,000.
- b. The committee along with various campus partners sponsored a successful lecture featuring David Wallace-Wells last year.
- c. Professor Harrelson left documents regarding goals for committee
- d. Co-sponsors should be named and recognized
- e. Consult with the Faculty Resources and Environment committee
  - i. The faculty senate needs to know they have the ability to raise issues with the work of other committees if needed. There is no mandate to meet with the Chair of the faculty resources and environment committee on a regular schedule. Katharine sits on faculty senate executive committee which includes committee chairs from all faculty senate

committees and as the committee liaison she can bring issues to the attention of the faculty resources and environment committee if needed.

3. Review 2019-20 Annual Report and Committee Activities to date
  - a. The report is included as a link in the agenda, and highlights the work of the committee for 2019-20. The report also noted the importance of having continued student engagement and representation on this committee.
  
4. New Business
  - a. How should the committee think about virtual engagement and plan for the next six to twelve months.
    - i. The committee donated \$2000 to support the Elkan Lecturer in Science and Society with the Park Scholars to host Thomas Hager who wrote one of the former common reading books. The event had 250 attendees.
    - ii. UAB is having challenges with student engagement because students are on zoom all day in classes and therefore not necessarily motivated to participate in fun virtual events. UAB did have good engagement at the beginning of the semester and larger turnouts for interactive events. but trailed off later.
    - iii. Some professors noted declining attendance in classes later in the semester.
    - iv. Genetic Engineering and Science Society will feature journalist and author Angela Saini tomorrow to speak on race and science. Ms. Saini lives in England and her honorarium to speak virtually is significantly lower than the cost of bringing her to campus. To date 1000 people signed up to hear Ms. Saini which highlights the difference in student and campus community/alumni engagement. There may be an opportunity for the committee to engage students and the campus community with provocative speakers and popular topics during the beginning of the semester. Is the committee interested in sponsoring a virtual event in January?
    - v. Winter Welcome Wolfpack week is January 8-15, 2021 and it may be a good time to host a speaker (before January 15) Kristin can work with new student programs to determine interest.
      1. If we approach speakers by topic, consider coronavirus medical experts and researchers.
      2. Someone who can speak to the changes the university and the world is experiencing due to the pandemic and politics, someone

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who can help us understand the world we are moving toward.

Robb Dunn is a faculty member currently teaching a futurist class.

3. With zoom we could host a panel with a scientist, a researcher, an artist, etc
4. Dan Buettner-Blue Zones Projects is an author and nutritionist
5. Jason Schenker-economist runs Futuristic Institute and speaks often to Poole College of Management group
6. If coronavirus frames a conversation on the future of education and communities it may draw students and the community. Kristin can seek opinions from the Student Government Association.
7. Should we focus on one highly visible speaker and co-sponsor smaller events? One big speaker may be bigger draw from student perspective

Marian suggested that the committee again in three weeks to review action items and make determination on a speaker for January. Monica will schedule the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.