

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

University Standing Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Speakers and Lectures \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Year Covered by Report 2021-22 \_\_\_\_\_

Date Report Submitted May 31, 2022 \_\_\_\_\_

Report Submitted by Kevin Potter \_\_\_\_\_

Number of times committee met 6 \_\_\_\_\_

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The continued COVID-19 pandemic affected the work of the Speakers and Lectures Committee during the 2021-22 academic year. Specifically, the uncertainty associated with whether people would be able to gather in large groups has made it challenging to plan events, especially in-person. The committee, therefore, had not planned any of its own events during the 2021-22 academic year.

However, the committee supported one speaker brought to NC State by another organization and additionally made plans to sponsor two speakers at the university during the 2022-23 academic year, one in the fall and one in the spring. All three of these events are related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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

The committee met six times over Zoom (September 29, October 26, and November 30, 2021 and January 19, March 24, and April 28, 2022) with additional email communications among committee members.

As part of its charge to work with other campus partners to bring high-level speakers to campus, the committee contributed \$5,000 to support having [Dr. Raj Chetty](#), William A. Ackman Professor of Economics at Harvard University and Director of Opportunity Insights, as keynote speaker for the Inaugural Equity Research Symposium on Feb. 8, 2022. The event, which had in-person and virtual components, was sponsored by the Provost's Office, Vice Chancellor for Research, and the Deans.

Following much discussion and research, the committee also voted to bring two speakers to campus during the 2022-23 academic year.

The first of these will be [Dr. Aprille Ericsson-Jackson](#), Instrument Project Manager with NASA Goddard Flight Center, where she is currently the instrument manager for a proposed mission to bring dust from the Martian lower atmosphere back to Earth. She is also a strong advocate of STEM education for underrepresented groups. Her presentation is tentatively scheduled for 3 p.m. Thursday, October 13, in Stewart Theater.

The second speaker will be [Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah](#), Professor of Philosophy and Law at New York University. He is a philosopher who focuses on the meaning of identity

– including racial, political, and class – and recommends ways to bridge our differences while maintaining our identities. His presentation will be at 3 p.m. Thursday, February 9, in Stewart Theater.

Despite the challenges of working during a pandemic, the committee continued to fulfill its charge.

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