Lectures Committee Annual Report for 2019-20

Statement of Committee Function
The University Lectures Committee considers requests for lectures of general interest that are not primarily supplementary to or extensions of programs of instruction provided by colleges, schools, or departments, recommends annually to the chancellor a budget for its activities, and exercises such control over the announcement of lectures as it deems necessary and desirable. It supports departments, academic programs and student organizations that bring distinguished lecturers to the UW-Madison campus. These university-wide lectures are intended to enrich the general intellectual and cultural life of the university community. The committee itself does not initiate lecture arrangements. Rather, it receives and acts on requests from eligible university groups that are interested in inviting outstanding speakers to the campus.

Past Years’ Activities
During the 2019-20 academic year the committee received a total of 53 applications for lecture support, 26 of which were supported and occurred, 2 that were given exceptions to transfer funds from the previous year, and 25 that were supported and cancelled or which never followed up with an attendance report. The majority of these cancellations occurred during the last two months of the semester when COVID-19 made it necessary to cancel many travel plans. The attached report presents information for each supported lecture; lectures are listed chronologically by the lecture’s date.

In 2019-20, the 26 supported lectures that occurred drew a combined reported attendance of 1,983 persons, and an average of 76 attendees per supported application. Of total accepted applications, lectures were sponsored by a total of 46 different campus units. Lectures had 108 co-sponsoring units, in addition to the primary sponsor.

The committee’s total expenditures for the 2019-20 year were $28,646.23.

Fitch funds: Four lectures were approved for Fitch Funds in 2019-2020, three of which occurred, one of which was cancelled due to COVID-19. The total amount of Fitch Funds spent was $2,724.17

The table below compares committee activity from the most recent five years. A similar number of applications were received and supported during the past three years. The total expenditures increased and then stayed consistent over the past four years, as the committee made significant efforts to follow up with units regarding attendance reports and transferring of lecture funds after the event. Sponsors have also been limited to supporting only one lecture for each spring and fall semester during recent years.

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of applications received</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of applications supported</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average reported lecture attendance</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>84</td>
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</table>
Number of different sponsors | 46 | 39 | 42 | 44 | 42 | 52  
Average number of co-sponsors | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.0 | 3.0  
Average lecture cost | $1,027 | $1,087 | $1,006 | $1,007 | $1,070 | $1,066  

**Current Issues or Concerns**

In general, the committee would be glad to see an increase in lecture applications for the coming year. Given the travel and gathering restraints necessary during the pandemic, we anticipate the applications we do receive will have significantly lower expenses. This means that the committee will have capacity for more applications than we are likely to receive, especially at this time.

The William Fitch Scholarship Fund was created with the specific goal of bringing to Madison experts, especially businesspeople, to give lectures on the American free-enterprise system. The committee received four Fitch Funds applications last year for relatively low costs and could have approved more financial contribution. The committee would like to see more applications for Fitch funds and encourages all departments to consider whether their lecturers may touch on these topics.

**Summary/Recommendations**

We gratefully acknowledge sources of financial support for university-wide lectures: The Anonymous Fund, Kemper K. Knapp Bequest, and the Chancellor’s Office (General University Fund).

**2019-20 Committee Membership**

Timothy Smeeding, Lafollette School of Public Affairs (Chair)
Eve Emshwiller, Botany
Jordan Rosenblum, Center for Jewish Studies & Religious Studies Program
Clark Landis, Chemistry
William Karpus, Academic Dean Representative
Antje Petty, Max Kade Institute
Joey Chen, Student
### Appendix B

#### 2019-20 Lectures by Date

(Lectures that were able to occur as planned)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sponsoring Unit</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Funding Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09/09/2019</td>
<td>Afro-American Studies</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Discussion and a jazz performance: Sophisticated Giant: The Life and Legacy of Dexter Gordon</td>
<td>Maxine Gordon ($917.6 – General Fund)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/12/2019</td>
<td>Institute for Legal Studies</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>Rethinking the Shareholder Franchise</td>
<td>J. Travis Laster ($1141.67 – Fitch Fund)</td>
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<tr>
<td>09/13/2019</td>
<td>The Information School</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>Beyond the Dark Fantastic: How Do We Close the Imagination Gap for Children of Color?</td>
<td>Ebony Thomas ($1122.6 – Anonymous Fund)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>09/23/2019</td>
<td>German, Nordic &amp; Slavic</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>Displaced Sympathies: Finnish Out- and In-Migration, Then and Now</td>
<td>Jimmy Träskelin ($901.33 – Anonymous Fund)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/26/2019</td>
<td>Center for Visual Cultures Association</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>Stateless Views of Global Migration</td>
<td>Shimon Attie ($1029.12 – Anonymous Fund)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/14-10/15/2020</td>
<td>Wisconsin Ecology</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>Two Untitled Public Symposiums</td>
<td>Sharon Collinge ($1006.32 – General Fund)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/24/2019</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>The Making of Carnatic Music</td>
<td>Sumathi Krishnan ($2116.67 – Anonymous Fund)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10/24/2019  McPherson Eye Research Institute  
*What Art Can Tell Us About the Brain*
Margaret Livingstone ($757.16 – Anonymous Fund)

10/24/2019  Kinesiology  
*Mechanisms for the Post-Exercise Improvement in Insulin Sensitivity*
Greg Cartee ($1109.40 – General Fund)

10/24/2019  Psychology  
*Using computational models to understand, predict, and nudge word learning trajectories*
Eliana Colunga ($1108.33 – General Fund)

10/24/2019  Classical & Near Eastern Studies  
*Attributes and Identity in Palmyrene Funerary Sculpture*
Maura K. Heyn ($954.17 – General Fund)

10/25/2019  Wisconsin Law Review  
*Rationing the Constitution: How Judicial Capacity Shapes Supreme Decision-Making*
Jane Schacter ($487.44 – General Fund)

10/30/2019  Art History  
*Reconsidering Pictures of Beauties in the Era of #metoo: An Utamaro Case Study*
Julie Nelson Davis ($996.00 – Anonymous Fund)

11/01/2019  Botany  
*One Tree, One Planet*
Douglas Soltis ($1310.54 – General Fund)

11/05/2019  Plant Sciences Graduate Student Council  
*Plant Sciences Symposium*
Selena Smith ($607.55 – General Fund)

11/07/2019  American Indian Studies Program  
*Native American Commerce: The Pros and Cons of Tribal Sovereignty in Advancing Business Development*
Lance Morgan ($982.50 – Fitch Fund)

11/12/2019  Planning & Landscape Architecture  
*Urban Political Ecology and the Growth of Mexico City: Insights for contemporary challenges of cities*
Matthew Vitz   ($924.67 – General Fund)

11/13/2019  Gender & Women’s History
Madwomen on the Slave Ship: Reproduction and Racial Capitalism
Jennifer Morgan   ($614.29 – Anonymous Fund)

12/05/2019  German, Nordic & Slavic
Sustainable Vikings: Exploring Nordic Leadership in Sustainable Capitalism
Robert Strand   ($600.00 - Fitch Fund)

12/05/2019  Anthropology
Verses and Flows: Migrant Lives and the Sounds of Crossing
Alex Chávez   ($1150 – Knapp Fund)

12/05/2019  Religious Studies
The Pittsburgh Project: The Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting, A Year Later
Mark Oppenheimer   ($1018.49 – Knapp Fund)

02/13/2020 Agronomy
Soil Health: The Socioeconomics and the Science
Cristine Morgan   ($778.57 – General Fund)

02/13/2020 French and Italian
Merci, mais non merci : Black Ecology in a Creole Context
Bénédicte Boisseron   ($571.42 – Knapp Fund)

03/06/2020 Interdisciplinary Theatre Studies
A Body in the O: A Reading/Performance by Tim Miller
Tim Miller   ($1156.93 – Anonymous Fund)