

**To:** SACUA

**From:** Michael Atzmon and Nick Tobier, Chairs, Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture Committee (DMNC)

**Subject:** Report on Activities of the Davis, Markert, and Nickerson Academic Freedom Lecture Committee (DMNC) for 2024-2025

**Members:**

Marcy Epstein  
Pauline Jones  
Seda Saluk  
Basit Zafar

**SACUA Liaison:**

Melanie Tanielian

**Meeting Dates:**

Wed. 9/11 from 3-4pm  
Wed. 10/2 from 3-4pm  
Fri. 11/8 from 3-4pm  
Wed. 12/11 from 3-4pm  
Fri. 1/24/24 from 3-4pm

**Committee Charge**

1. In coordination with the Faculty Senate Office, plan the 2024-2025 DMN lecture.
2. Begin planning the 2025-2026 DMN lecture. Since some prominent speakers schedule events more than a year in advance, the committee should select a speaker for Fall 2025 by October 2024. If possible, future committees may want to plan the lectures further in advance.
3. Hold a panel discussion in the 2024-2025 Winter Semester on a timely topic. This is an opportunity to work with different units across campus and identify supportive units.

### **Committee Actions and Recommendations**

2024-25 was a very productive year. Our Fall 2024 speaker, Dr. Judith Butler, drew a record-breaking attendance online and in person. Along with the lecture and with the help of the FSO we were able to co-sponsor a number of smaller events and discussions around Dr. Butler's visit. We propose a similar approach for the next speakers as a way to share their presence on campus in more discussion-oriented fora.

Winter 2025 we hosted a panel discussion with Isaac Kamola from Trinity College and Jason Stanley from Yale, moderated by School of Information Professor Kentaro Toyama. The panel, co-sponsored by NCID, was followed by a co-sponsored (with AAUP) strategy session. These types of collaborations with other units as well as modes of engagement (lecture, panel, discussion) seem very robust ways to continue in 25-26.

With Dr. Ruth Ben-Ghiat lined up for 2025 and a potential speaker for 2026, the committee can focus attention on co-sponsorships and affiliated events for Fall 2025 and planning for a late March -early April Winter 2025 panel. Friday mid-morning seemed also to be a good time to catch people. For the coming academic year, it is tentatively expected that committee membership will be offered to University Senate members in the following units: Engineering, LSA, UM-Flint, and Librarians, Archivists, and Curators.