Conversation with Kenneth Chenault ’73, H’96 and President Clayton Rose

Saturday, November 9, 2019
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Pickard Theater, Memorial Hall

PRESIDENT ROSE speaks with renowned leader and business strategist Ken Chenault, former CEO of American express, now chairman and managing director at venture capital firm General Catalyst and board member at Airbnb, Facebook, and more.

KENNETH CHENAULT ’73, H’96 is chairman and a managing director of the venture capital firm General Catalyst. Prior to joining General Catalyst, Ken was chairman and chief executive officer of American Express Company, a position he held from 2001 to 2018. Under his leadership, American Express built one of the world’s largest customer loyalty programs—Membership Rewards—and earned global recognition as a leader in customer service. Ken is recognized as one of the business world’s experts on leadership and brand management. He has been honored by multiple publications, including Fortune magazine, which named him as one of the “World’s 50 Greatest Leaders” in its inaugural list in 2014. Ken serves on the boards of Airbnb, Chief, Facebook, and the Harvard Corporation. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the NCAA. Ken is on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Smithsonian Institution’s Advisory Council for the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the National September 11 Memorial Museum, Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence Institute Advisory Council at Stanford University. He also serves on the board of trustees for NYU Langone Health. He and his wife, Kathryn, live in New York City, and they have two sons.

Introduction by RANDY STAKEMAN, associate professor of history and Africana studies emeritus.