Faculty Advisory Committee on NYU’s Global Network

October 10, 2013 (9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)

Meeting Notes

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN MEETING

Eliot Borenstein, Co-Chair
Una Chaudhuri, Co-Chair
Jose Alvarez, School of Law
Sylvain Cappell, Faculty Senators Council, Courant Institute, Mathematics
Andrea Chambers, SCPS
Jean-Louis Cohen, IFA
Patricia Corby, College of Dentistry
Michael Dinwiddie, Gallatin School
Richard Foley, Administrative liaison to the Committee (Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning)
Don Garrett, FAS (Philosophy)
Paul Glimcher, FAS (Neural Science)
Natasha Iskander, Wagner School of Public Service
Sameer Jaywant, Student representative
Martin Klimke, NYU-AD
Vicki Morwitz, Stern
Fred Myers, FAS (Anthropology)
Charles Newman, Courant Institute
Gbenga Ogedegbe, School of Medicine
Robert Rowe, Steinhardt School
Gail Segal, Tisch
Mal Semple, FAS (Neural Science)
Joshua Tucker, FAS (Politics)
Joanna Waley-Cohen, NYU-Shanghai
Niobe Way, Steinhardt

GUESTS: Al Bloom, Vice Chancellor of NYU-AD; Fabio Piano, Provost, NYU-AD
Report on meeting

Guests Al Bloom and Fabio Piano opened the meeting by broadly outlining their vision of NYU-AD and its development over the next 15-20 years. NYU-AD aims to support and reinforce NYU’s strengths, while also developing strengths that are distinctive so as to add value to NYU faculty, research, students and the Global Network. Over the long term, it is envisioned that NYU-AD will be established unequivocally not only as a campus of NYU but also as an institution that will support Abu Dhabi in realizing its aspirations in terms of serving as a center of academic excellence in the UAE and wider region. NYU-AD aims to enhance the global education and experience of NYU students, challenge perspectives, and add value to the Global Network in terms of the graduates it produces and research it develops. It is also envisioned to serve as a scholarly center with a liberal arts college unmatched in its ability to prepare students for global citizenship. In the longer-term perspective, it is envisioned for NYU-AD to serve as a place of graduate- and PhD-level education and professional schools.

Bloom and Piano next provided an overview of what steps are being taken to realize the vision. They discussed central topics, including: how students are being recruited globally; faculty hiring; and, developing NYU-AD’s research capacity. They emphasized the global diversity of the incoming class, with Emirati students making up 14% of the class. Faculty recruitment focuses on the need for both world-class teachers and researchers. There are currently 250 faculty members in total, including 110 standing faculty, 85 affiliated faculty, and additional visiting faculty. Additionally, 140 post-docs, graduate students, and research assistant are now employed at the AD campus. Drs. Bloom and Piano also offered ideas for how to begin developing stronger relationships between departments in NYU-AD and NYU-NY, including collaborative research initiatives and student circulation.

Following these opening remarks, committee members raised a number of key questions for discussion, including how liberal arts and the social sciences would be developed at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at NYU-AD. The guests described the high level of engagement of students in social science studies, and discussed an area of central concern to faculty –data collection. Fabio highlighted how NYU-AD is helping to establish and develop key relationships in the region that will aid researchers in surveying and gaining access to data.

Other questions focused on student issues, including the high caliber of students admitted into NYU-AD; the academic experience of NYU-AD students who come to NYU-NY (and vice-versa); and the long-term stability of financial aid being provided to NYU-AD students. Further discussion was spent on the model for hiring tenured and tenure-track faculty at NYU-AD, and on their status and relationship with NYU-NY. As the time allotted for Bloom’s and Piano’s visit concluded, the guests and committee members welcomed the possibility of continuing these discussions via email as well as additional future visits to the committee.

Continuing the Reports of Subcommittees: Subcommittee On Student Enrollment and Experience

During the final half-hour of the meeting, Joyce Apsel and Andrea Chambers provided an overview of the preliminary report of the sub-committee on student enrollment and student experience. This subcommittee also includes Sameer Jaywant (Student Council representative) as a member. The report provides a review of data provided by Linda Mills (Vice Chancellor, Global Programs and University Life) in response to a list of questions and issues of interest re: student enrollment and
experience, which the subcommittee submitted to the vice chancellor in June 2013. In addition to the data review, the report provides comments, recommendations and a request for follow up and additional data from the Office of Global Programs.