Deans’ offer of stipend funds for departmental global coordinators.

FROM: Eliot Borenstein & Una Chaudhuri, Co-Chairs, Faculty Advisory Committee on NYU’s Global Network

TO: All FAS Department Chairs and Program Directors

DATE: August 5, 2013

Dear FAS Department Chairs and Program Directors,

As co-chairs of the Faculty Committee on the University’s Global Network, we are writing to you as a first step in a process of departmental consultation the committee hopes to undertake in the months ahead. While the committee will likely be framing a more formal request (with specific questions) for input about your department’s past experience, current relationship, and future hopes and expectations in relation to Global (the study-abroad sites and the new campuses in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai), we felt that a recent development in FAS could be a useful opportunity for departments to focus on Global.

As you know, this year’s APR responses in FAS offer funding to Departments who might wish to assign responsibility for global-related work to a specific faculty member. We are happy about this offer, because in the earliest stages of our work, our committee found that a major concern for departments was the additional workload generated by the expansion of study-abroad sites and the opening of two new campuses abroad. The proposed stipend for departmental officers to attend to global comes out of the FAS deans’ awareness of this problem, and strikes us a good step in the right direction.

We are also happy that this funding is being offered to departments on a voluntary basis, making this an opportunity to think through the ways this proposed new feature of department life would work within the distinctive culture and practice of each department. We therefore also hope that you will bring this matter up for formal discussion in your department or program. While the APR response offers some ideas for the activities that a departmental “global coordinator” (or some such title) would undertake, we believe that a process of discussing and defining the role of such an office could be a good way for departments to clarify their own interests and needs in relation to the sites and portals in the global network.

The main points that emerge from such discussions would be most helpful for our committee to hear about. We are grateful for the information and guidance we have already received from the FAS deans, much of it emerging from the many recent conversations they have had with you, the FAS Chairs and Program Heads, about global issues. We hope that those conversations have laid the foundations for involving all our colleagues in this conversation. We also hope that, in the coming year, our committee will be able to gather and provide the kinds of information that departments might need in order to have meaningful discussions about Global; some of that kind of information is already available on the committee’s website. Please don’t hesitate to let us know about other information you need, and we will try to get it for you.

Very best,

Eliot Borenstein and Una Chaudhuri

Co-Chairs, Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network