Dear Department Chairs and Academic Program Heads,

The Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network has been gathering information and holding discussions with many people and groups involved with NYU’s study abroad sites, portal campuses, and the network as a whole. We have also heard from many individual faculty members, including those who attended the Faculty Forum we held in October. We write now to formally seek your department’s input into our work.

We are eager for any and all of your ideas, thoughts, concerns, proposals.

In the hope that this will help to shape the conversation in your department, we are sending you two documents to share with your faculty:

1. The first consists of responses to a questionnaire that our colleagues at the two portals (NYUAD and NYUSH) generously responded to; we hope that the information and specifics it contains will spark some meaningful conversations among departments here.

2. The second is a working document, entitled “Principles and Tensions,” that we’ve been using to frame our work: the “principles” are intended as values for guiding all matters in the global network, and the “tensions” are intended to represent built-in pressures that need, first, to be acknowledged, and then carefully monitored going forward. These general ideas do not constitute either a report or recommendations, both of which we hope to issue by the end of the academic year. We anticipate that our work going forward will consist of (1) fine-tuning these fundamentals, and (2) seeking modalities to put them into operation. We are eager for faculty and departmental input into both these processes.

We would be grateful to hear—if possible by the end of February 2014—your department’s current thinking about global network matters, including responses to any part of the attached material. (For example: which principles do they endorse most strongly? Which ones would they rephrase or eliminate? Which other tensions should be acknowledged? Finally, what specific modalities (including new policies and new institutional/administrative structures) should our committee consider or study in order to operationalize these principles and resolve or address these tensions?)

Thank you.

Eliot Borenstein and Una Chaudhuri
Co-Chairs, Faculty Advisory committee on NYU’s Global Network

1 Please note that we mean the word “department” to be shorthand for whatever academic unit is relevant in each of our schools, some of which are divided into units with different designations (programs, divisions, etc.)