Faculty Advisory Committee on NYU’s Global Network

March 25, 2014 (9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)

Meeting Notes

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN MEETING

Eliot Borenstein, FAS (Russian & Slavic Studies) Co-Chair
José Álvarez, School of Law
Joyce Apsel, Global Liberal Studies
Ruth Ben-Ghiat, FAS (Italian Studies)
Sylvain Cappell, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences (Mathematics)
Andrea Chambers, SCPS (Design-Publishing)
Patricia Corby, College of Dentistry (Bluestone Center for Clinical Research)
Lucinda Covert-Vail, Division of Libraries
Richard Foley, Administrative Liaison to the Committee (Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning)
Scott Fritzen, NYU Shanghai
Don Garrett, FAS (Philosophy)
Liliana Goldin, Silver School of Social Work
Victoria Morwitz, Stern School of Business
Charles Newman, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences (Mathematics)
Robert Rowe, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development (Music & Music Education)
Gail Segal, Tisch School of the Arts (Graduate Film)
Joshua Tucker, FAS (Politics)
Nancy Van Devanter, College of Nursing
Co-Chair Eliot Borenstein began the meeting by reporting that he and co-chair Una Chaudhuri are making progress towards having an initial draft of the committee’s final report for the committee as a whole to discuss.

He also reported that the committee would postpone discussion of faculty circulation to the global sites until the next meeting, since Linda Mills has been invited to that meeting and she will bring to it relevant information on circulation issues.

The current meeting, as indicated in the agenda, will focus on two topics: 1) the recommendations of our subcommittee on Graduate Programs and 2) an elaboration/response (drafted by the co-chairs) to the FAS Deans’ proposal about a newly conceived category of affiliation (“Global Faculty”) for Portal faculty with NYUNY units.

Eliot Borenstein opened the floor for comments, questions, and suggestions on the draft proposal for “Global Faculty.” The discussion elicited requests for clarification on a number of items in the proposal, for example: to whom this title would apply; whether the title was intended primarily for new hires; whether faculty member at a portal campus could be hired or get tenure without this status; and whether a portal faculty member without this status could receive an affiliated or associated appointment in a NY academic unit.

In the discussion that followed, it was determined that the new “Global Faculty” title, if accepted, should be for faculty (whether or not tenured/tenure-track) who are appointed one hundred percent at Abu Dhabi or Shanghai. In addition, the title is one to be used by academic units in New York; it wouldn’t affect their titles at the portal campus. The assumption, moreover, is that in general a unit in NY which consists mostly of tenured and tenure track faculty would grant the global faculty title to faculty who are tenured or tenure track at the portal, whereas a unit in New York that had a significant number of arts faculty or other kinds of non-tenure track faculty would grant the global faculty status to faculty at the portal who had analogous kinds of appointments there. It was agreed that this point needs to be clarified in the document. It was further noted that part of the rationale for the new title is that it would help differentiate portal faculty with this title from the regular standing faculty who are appointed one hundred percent in New York. It was suggested that the proposal include a statement to the effect that the global faculty title need not preclude portal faculty from also having other titles and other modes of affiliation with the NY academic units. Global faculty status, it was observed, would not carry any tenure implications in New York nor any implications about the role of such faculty in the governance of the NY academic unit. In addition, NY academic units would remain free to retract the status, although the assumption is that such retractions would be rare. It was noted finally that there are already provisions for portal faculty that in the unlikely event of a portal campus being closed, NYU would
make a good faith effort to place the portal faculty at one of its centers in the Global Network, and in any case they would receive two year’s salary.

The committee also discussed concerns about “shopping” candidates that emerge in a search to different departments/schools when the fit is not good with the department/school that initially partnered in the search with the portal campus. In the discussion of this issue, some members pointed out that shopping already happens with spousal and partner hires at the Square and isn’t necessarily a negative thing. The committee was unsure whether any recommendation on “shopping” needs to be included in the final report.

Several committee members expressed concern about possible confusion of the title “global faculty” with pre-existing titles used by schools in NY, for example, FAS’s use of the “Distinguished Global Professor” title and the Law School’s use of the very same “Global Faculty” title. Some committee members proposed possible alternative titles, including “Global Portal Faculty,” “Portal Faculty,” and “Global Affiliated Faculty.”

Co-chair Eliot Borenstein asked for a show of hands of how many members of the committee were in support for the basic idea of “global faculty” status, acknowledging that some tweaking of the proposal was still needed and acknowledging as well that more discussion of the exact title is needed. The committee members present at the meeting were unanimous in support of the basic idea.

As a next step, Co-chair Eliot Borenstein agreed to standardize the intermittently used language of “departments” and “units” to just “units” throughout the document. In addition, he said he would amend the footnote reference to the Provost and the deans deciding which NYUNY unit is the right fit for potential Abu Dhabi and Shanghai faculty hires to make clear that the faculty in the NYUNY unit also need to agree.

The committee turned next to a discussion to the Graduate Program draft from the Graduate Subcommittee. One of the recommendations of that draft is that questions about the eligibility of portal faculty teaching and advising graduate students in NY programs should remain separate from questions of whether to make an offers to a potential hire at the portals. The committee discussed whether the revised global faculty proposal (and the additional revisions suggested at this meeting) might address the worries that prompted this recommendation. Eliot said he would discuss this issue with members of the Graduate Program subcommittee who weren’t able to attend this meeting.

The committee next discussed the need of the draft to acknowledge explicitly that the issues for doctoral programs and students at the portals are significantly different from the issues of masters programs and students. Much of the committee and subcommittee’s focus has been on the former, but there are
major issues about the latter that the committee (or the proposed successor committee to the current committee) need also to address

Committee members, in particular, expressed worries that new masters programs created at portal campuses might compete with programs in NY, especially programs that have significant international enrollments (for example, the Law School’s LL.M. program). The committee agreed to incorporate language into the final report that would acknowledge this worry and acknowledge as well the need for a mechanism to ensure co-operation and coordination with existing programs at NYUNY when new masters programs at the portals are being considered. The mechanism might be one that included these issues in the responsibilities of the successor committee or alternatively it might be possible to broaden the mandate of the existing Graduate Commission of the Provost Office to include global masters programs. There might also be some combination of the two, for example, the successor committee might include representatives from the Graduate Commission.

The committee concluded by agreeing that at the next meeting, in addition to discussing faculty circulation issues with Linda Mills, they would engage her in a discussion of the report (already shared with her) of our Subcommittee on Student Experience in the Global Network.