Faculty Advisory Committee on NYU’s Global Network

December 18, 2013 (8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)

Meeting Notes

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN MEETING

Eliot Borenstein, Co-Chair
Una Chaudhuri, Co-Chair
Joyce Apsel, Liberal Studies
Sylvain Cappell, Faculty Senators Council/Courant Institute, Mathematics
Jennifer Carpenter, Stern
Andrea Chambers, SCPS
Patricia Corby, College of Dentistry
Lucinda Covert-Vail, Library
Michael Dinwiddie, Gallatin
Richard Foley, Administrative Liaison to the Committee (Vice Chancellor for Strategic Planning)
Don Garrett, FAS (Philosophy)
Paul Glimcher, FAS (Neural Science)
Liliana Goldin, Silver
Zhong-Ping Jiang, NYU-Poly
Martin Klimke, NYU-AD
Victoria Morwitz, Stern
Gbenga Ogedegbe, School of Medicine
Robert Rowe, Steinhardt
Gail Segal, Tisch
Malcolm Semple, FAS (Neural Science)
Joshua Tucker, FAS (Politics)
Nancy Van Devanter, College of Nursing
Joanna Waley-Cohen, NYU-SH
Report on Meeting

Co-chairs Una Chaudhuri and Eliot Borenstein opened the meeting by reporting back on two committees that they had visited earlier in the week: the FAS Advisory Committee on Policy and Planning on Monday, December 16th, and the Office of the Provost’s Faculty Advisory Committee on Academic Priorities on Tuesday, December 17th. To both meetings they brought the “Principles and Tensions” draft that had been prepared earlier by the Global Network Committee. Both committees appreciated the chance to hear about the Committee’s deliberations to date as well as to review this document and comment on it.

The Committee then returned to its own discussion of the draft. It was suggested while it was appropriate for the draft to focus on concerns that have been expressed by faculty, there also should be some references in the document to the potential benefits to NYU faculty of the global network, including the opportunity to conduct research and teach in the network. The Committee gave Eliot and Una permission to insert language to this effect.

The Committee also discussed some additional revisions to the letter that is to be sent out to department chairs and academic program heads in January, formally requesting their comments and input to the committee. (The “Principles and Tensions” draft and the “Questionnaire on Portal Collaboration” will accompany that letter.)

Eliot re-introduced the topic of the roles played by New York departments and faculty in hiring tenured and tenure track faculty at the Abu Dhabi and Shanghai portal campuses. This discussion was centered on two documents: a document titled “Guiding Principles and Practices for FAS-NYUAD Partnership,” which was jointly drafted by the FAS deans and NYU-AD leadership (and is posted on the Committee’s website); and a December 4, 2013 memo from Provost David McLaughlin that comments on the “Guiding Principles” document. The discussion was framed by FAS Dean Tom Carew’s invitation to the committee to give him any feedback we may have about the proposals presented in the “Guiding Principles” document.

The committee began its discussion by noting that the Guidelines document covers three broad topics, which probably need to be discussed separately. The committee’s discussion focused mainly on the first topic: involvement of NY units in the hiring and tenuring of portal faculty.

The committee plans to discuss the document’s second important topic—graduate programs—at a later meeting.

It was noted that the current document refers to (because it emanates from) FAS exclusively, and that it is imperative that the issues surrounding portal faculty development be addressed with all NYU’s schools in mind.

The committee recognized that there are three general goals underlying the recommendations in both the documents: (1) the goal of ensuring that faculty hired and tenured at the portals are of the highest quality possible; (2) the goal of ensuring that faculty at NYU-AD/SH are closely connected with appropriate colleagues in NY; and (3) the goal of developing NYU-AD/SH as campuses with distinct identities instead of being “clones” of NY.

The Committee also observed that the optimal practices and procedures for searching, hiring, and tenuring faculty at NYU-AD/SH during the initial start up phase may not remain optimal when the campuses are more mature, with a critical mass of their own tenured faculty. Hence, any set of practices and procedures agreed to under the current state of development should be subject to a thorough faculty review in 3-5 years.