Proposal for a New Standing Committee: The Global Network Steering Committee

The overarching responsibility of the committee would be to ensure timely involvement of—and oversight by—the full-time faculty of NYU (both at the Square and at the Portals, both tenure stream and contract stream) in all academic issues related to the Global Network.

The committee must endeavor to ensure that policies and practices of the Global Network do not jeopardize the integrity of NYU’s academic programs, wherever they may be, by protecting faculty control of curricula, programs of study, and recruitment and advancement of new faculty.

Since the quality of academic programs depends largely on the quality and working conditions of their faculties, the committee must work to ensure that, as the Global Network develops, all our faculty colleagues, wherever in the Global Network they work, receive the fair treatment and appropriate protection that is necessary to achieve academic excellence.

Finally, a Global Network Steering Committee could provide valuable continuity during the forthcoming period of leadership transition, and safeguard the University’s considerable successes and achievements in the area of global initiatives, including the establishment of our two new Portals.

Major Responsibilities of the Proposed Committee:

1) Work to ensure educational quality of Study Away Programs.
2) Work to promote the educational value and administrative ease of student circulation through the global network.
3) Work to promote collaboration among units in New York and at the Portals on curricular and research issues and faculty recruitment.
4) Work on optimizing faculty circulation in the university's global network, including to Portals and Sites.
5) Ensure timely involvement of faculty and academic units in decisions about opening any new Site or Portal, or closing an existing Site or Portal.
6) Regularly review, re-evaluate, and refine all policies, procedures, practices, etc. of the Global Network, especially as the Portals mature.
7) Assess and help to refine tools and mechanisms to evaluate undergraduate academic and student life experiences before, during, and after study away.
8) Facilitate inquiries and assessment of areas of concern to faculty, students, or academic units that may emerge as the Global Network matures and evolves.

Composition and Transition:

We propose that the Committee consist of elected members from all Schools and both Portals and members from the FSC’s Global Network University Initiatives Committee.

The elected representatives should be selected according to the procedures that exist in (or
will need to be developed/established in) each of the relevant academic units, and every effort should be made to make these elections as broad and democratic as possible.

Elected representatives will be expected to seek input from their constituents and report back to them on a regular basis.

Because of time pressures, it will not be possible to constitute the proposed standing Committee by fall 2014. Therefore, we propose a two-stage process:

1) Extension of the current Committee through AY 2014-2015. We propose that the current committee continue its work, and all current members be asked to stay on. If a current member cannot continue (or chooses not to), then the dean of that member’s school will consult with the co-chairs and the Provost’s Office to appoint his or her replacement.

2) To help ensure continuity between AY 2014-2015 and AY 2015-2016, it might be advisable to replace only half the 2014-2015 committee in 2015-2016 (and then the other half in the following year).

We propose that the Provost’s Office work with the successor committee next fall to (1) determine the exact number of representatives from each school; (2) determine whether it would be useful for other provostial committees to have ex officio members on the committee, and if so, how many; and (3) decide how many student representatives should be on the committee, and how they are to be chosen.

The distribution of representatives on the Committee ought to be re-evaluated every two years, especially as the Portals grow in size and the involvement of NY’s professional schools in the Global Network increases.

**Term:**

We propose that the standard term of service on this committee be three years. In the first year or two of the committee’s existence, however, it would be advisable to elect or appoint some members for shorter terms, in order to avoid complete turnover every three years.

**Leadership:**

We propose that the Committee elect co-chairs from its membership. Co-chairs will serve for two years, in staggered terms. Once the Committee is up and running, a new co-chair would be elected at the end of each academic year (for a term to begin the following academic year).

**Logistical Support:**

We propose that a liaison from the Office of the Provost work with the committee as a non-voting member. We also propose that the Provost’s Office provide logistical support to the new committee, including assistance with scheduling, communications technology, and
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Proposed Initial Agenda Items for the Committee Next Year:

1) Set the schedule for annual Faculty Forum and bi-annual meetings with Portal leadership.
2) Invite a focus group of department chairs from across the schools, to meet with the Committee next fall. (This year’s committee sought feedback and input from all chairs and program heads, and met with a number of them, but not as many as we would have liked to. This dialogue should continue, and perhaps become a regular part of the Committee’s annual calendar. It is especially important to assemble groups of Chairs whose departments are already heavily involved with the Global Network.)
3) Set up the electoral system for the committee to use from AY 2015-2016 onwards, including the membership allocations of all schools and Portals.
4) Seek detailed information about the first--year experience of the SSACs.
5) Select the Committee's Liaisons to Financial and to the Portals (see above, pages 14 and 20).