Final Report

The Faculty Committee on NYU’s Global Network is the successor to the “Faculty Advisory Committee on the University’s Global Network,” established in April 2013 by Provost David W. McLaughlin. It represents the Provost’s approval and implementation of a recommendation in the original committee’s Final Report that a new standing committee be added to the roster of Provostial-level all-university committees, reporting annually to the Provost.

A second important item from the Final Report that was implemented by the Provost was the creation of a comprehensive information hub developed under the leadership of Linda Mills and Carol Morrow. Designed specifically to serve the needs of faculty, the new website "Faculty in the Global Network" (at http://www.nyu.edu/faculty/faculty-in-the-global-network.html) offers up-to-date information about research and teaching opportunities across the network, and will, we hope, function as a platform to enhance connectivity, encourage collaboration, and facilitate academic innovation.

2014-2015 was a transitional year for the committee as we translated what we had learned from our first year and a half of intense work into structures and protocols for a standing committee. We began by studying the composition of the committee, including appropriate levels of school/unit representation, interface with other committees, and methods of appointment/election. We proposed a new committee structure and timetable, which was subsequently approved and implemented by the Provost. The new committee’s membership was finalized over the summer.

A second ongoing item from the original report was the proposal to establish a new faculty title, “Global Network Faculty.” The co-chairs discussed this proposal in depth with Provost McLaughlin, who then invited them to present it, along with Professor Awam Amkpa, co-chair of the Global Sub-Committee of the FSC, at one of his meetings with all the Deans of the schools (December 17, 2014). Deans received the proposal very positively, and our committee then forwarded it to the Faculty Senators Council for further study and implementation. The proposal was addressed, and ideas and recommendations for altering, developing, and implementing it were
presented in a report of the T-FSC Subcommittee on Global. Over the summer, Provost McLaughlin moved forward on establishing the new faculty title of Global Network Professor along with procedures for requesting and conferring this title.

INFORMATION AND OUTREACH
Several meetings this year were devoted to discussions with key colleagues working across the Global Network, in order to update ourselves on their areas or ongoing issues of concern, as well as to plan and establish a calendar of annual visits and reports for the committee to use in the years ahead. Our visitors, and the topics we discussed with them, included:

• Jeffrey Lehman, Vice Chancellor of NYU Shanghai and Joanna Waley-Cohen, Provost of NYU Shanghai: Faculty Hiring, Cross-cultural Integration, Affiliated Faculty, Internet Access, Compliance and Labor Values, Events in Hong Kong
• Raghu Sundaram, Ann Morning, and Ann Marie Mauro; members of the Presidential Search Committee: NYU Presidential Search
• Martin Dorph, Executive Vice President of Finance and Information Technology: Finances in the Global Network, including NYU Abu Dhabi, NYU Shanghai, and the Global Sites
• Linda Mills, Vice Chancellor for Global Programs and University Life: Global Site Enrollment, Site-Specific Advisory Committees, Site Directors, Global School Liaisons, Office of Global Programs Operational Structure for Global Sites, Connections between New York-Based and Site-Based Faculty, NYU Shanghai Students Studying Away in New York, Ongoing and New Forms of Faculty Engagement with the Global Sites
• Katy Fleming, Deputy Provost and Director of the Provost’s Global Research Initiatives (GRI) Program: History of GRI Program, Application Procedures, Program Features, Graduate Students, New York Housing Program, Collaboration Grant, Participation Numbers, Vision, Questions from the Committee

We also held “Faculty Forums” with colleagues from NYUAD (March 10, 2015) and NYUSH (March 3, 2015), which included wide-ranging discussions that provided us with valuable insights into the concerns and perspectives of our colleagues in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai. We resolved to hold such forums regularly, and perhaps to focus some of them on special topics and presentations.

MAJOR ISSUES
Towards the end of the academic year, the committee’s attention was focused on issues of academic freedom that arose from the UAE’s travel restriction of Professor Andrew Ross, and issues of labor conditions at our portals, a topic continuing from last year and now focused on the release of the Nardello Report. Regarding the restriction on Professor Ross, the committee deliberated at length and issued a statement about academic freedom, which included a list of specific action points. We also asked the administration for ongoing reporting about mobility issues throughout the global network.

The Nardello Report was the subject of our last meeting, at which Professor Martin Klimke, our NYUAD representative, gave a detailed presentation and overview of the report. Also present were invited colleagues from NYUAD with special expertise on this topic as well as members of university administration who have been closely involved with the release of the report. Much in the Nardello Report is deeply disturbing, particularly the fact that about 30% of workers involved in construction of the Saadiyat campus fell under a “de facto exemption” from the University’s mandated labor standards, resulting in sub-standard wages and working conditions. The University’s decision to compensate the affected workers is good news, but, as our Subcommittee on Labor put it in their report, “In order to strengthen institutional accountability for these failures, it would seem important for the University to clarify and make transparent the process by which they will address the findings of the Nardello Report, particularly in the area of compensation, which seems to be the least clarified. That is the only way the movement from the past to a better future can be productively ensured. Compensation for the workers affected needs to be outlined clearly and the process made transparent.”

Response to the Nardello Report makes it clear that concern over labor and academic freedom is something that unites faculty throughout the network. In particular, we were impressed by both the scale and detail of the ongoing efforts by NYUAD faculty committees and task forces on labor at the Abu Dhabi campus. While continuing to grapple with the concerns about the Saadiyat construction raised by the Nardello Report, now that NYUAD is in the post-construction phase, the NYUAD faculty is also turning its attention to long-term labor questions (including the status of domestic workers). We are very grateful to the faculty of NYUAD for devoting so much time, thought, and energy to ensuring that our university’s record on social justice matches its many academic achievements.
The committee is committed to remaining focused on labor and academic freedom issues, and to working closely on these with the relevant faculty committees at the portals and with the Faculty Senate Councils.

The committee’s work this year has once again been aided immeasurably by Provost McLaughlin and Vice-Chancellor Linda Mills, and we thank them for their valuable and collaborative support. We thank Carol Morrow and Marie Ostby for their excellent logistical and administrative assistance. The co-chairs in particular want to thank Vice-Chancellor Richard Foley, the University Administration’s liaison to the committee, for his thoughtful guidance.