



Faculty Committee on NYU's Global Network
Thursday, September 23, 2021, 8:30am-10:00am EST

ATTENDANCE

- **Eliot Borenstein** (FAS Russian and Slavic Studies)
- **Ayham Adawi**, Student Government Assembly
- **Amy Bentley**, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development (Nutrition & Food Studies)
- **Mosette Broderick**, Faculty of Arts and Science (Art History)
- **Sylvain Cappell**, Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Senators Council (CIMS)
- **Alexis Cohen**, College of Dentistry
- **Scott Collard**, Division of Libraries
- **Duane Corpis**, NYU Shanghai
- **Erich Dietrich**, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
- **Nicolas Graf**, School of Professional Studies
- **Benjamin Hary**, Global Sites (FAS Hebrew & Judaic Studies)
- **Maya Kesrouany**, NYU Abu Dhabi
- **Gavin Kilduff**, Leonard N. Stern School of Business
- **Robin Klar**, Rory Meyers College of Nursing
- **Rob Lubar**, Institute of Fine Arts
- **Ken Nielsen**, Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- **Yaw Nyarko**, Provostial At-Large Appointment (FAS Economics)
- **Danielle Ompad**, School of Global Public Health
- **Adedamola Osinulu**, Liberal Studies
- **Marianne Petit**, Technology-Enhanced Education (Tisch School of the Arts)
- **Shafer Smith**, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
- **Peter Voltz**, Tandon School of Engineering
- **Aurora Wallace**, Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development)
- **Yanyue Yuan**, NYU Shanghai
- **Jiawei Zhang**, Leonard N. Stern School of Business

MEETING MINUTES

Eliot Borenstein opened the meeting with introductions and a brief overview of the committee's history and remit. After a year in which normal global activities were suspended in order to support students located around the world through the University's "Go Local" program, Eliot confirmed that study away operations have returned to almost all of the global sites, though not quite to pre-pandemic levels; collectively, the global sites are hosting approximately 62% as many students as in Fall 2019. When including New York, Abu Dhabi and Shanghai, a total of 2,393 NYU students -- including students participating in Shanghai's Go Local program -- are currently studying away (the degree-granting campuses are hosting a disproportionate number of these students due to

continued immigration challenges). All signs indicate that there is pent-up demand for study away and so, assuming that the trajectory of the pandemic improves, there is an expectation that Spring 2022 will more closely resemble a regular study away semester.

The committee then discussed setting an agenda for the year. With travel expected to pick up in the spring semester, several members felt it would be important for the committee to discuss and potentially weigh in on both the benefits and drawbacks of in-person versus virtual interactions. The committee agreed that face-to-face contact is vital to foster connectivity, especially between faculty at the degree-granting campuses, and noted that the global network is very much predicated on the importance of in-person experiences. However, members also acknowledged the significant financial and ecological impacts of physical travel and felt strongly that sustainability efforts should be of high priority for the University. The committee also recognized that virtual connectivity can be complementary -- and, in many cases, may even be preferable -- to physical connectivity, especially when done intentionally and with a focus on equity.

The committee discussed various ideas, including promoting the use of carbon offsets, calling for a divestment from fossil fuels and conducting carbon footprint analyses of the global sites, but decided that many of these initiatives would be beyond the expertise and purview of the committee. Instead, the committee considered moving towards issuing a statement on the value of travel for semester-long study away; affirming the importance of both face-to-face and virtual connectivity for faculty; and exploring ways to make the global network more sustainable and ensure the strategic value of travel.

In addition, the committee would like to focus its discussions on academics at the global sites, especially on ways to improve faculty engagement in the Site-Specific Advisory Committee (SSAC) meetings. In particular, the committee would like to generate ideas for a new committee structure or model that may be more productive, and to explore how this committee could work more in concert with the SSACs. Lastly, the committee will follow up and request a report from the dean of Liberal Studies regarding the closure of the first-year away program in Paris.