



# NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

**Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network**  
**Tuesday, March 3, 6:00 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. EST**

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## ***Meeting Notes***

### **MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN MEETING**

**Eliot Borenstein**, FAS (Russian & Slavic Studies) *Co-Chair*  
**Una Chaudhuri**, FAS (English) and Tisch (Drama) *Co-Chair*  
**Chen Jian**, NYU Shanghai  
**Martin Klimke**, NYU Abu Dhabi (FAS, History)  
**Marianne Petit**, NYU Shanghai

### **Guests:**

- Open Forum for NYU Shanghai Faculty Members

## Report on Meeting

Co-chairs Una Chaudhuri and Eliot Borenstein opened the meeting by welcoming all committee members present and faculty member guests from NYU Shanghai.

The following topics were discussed between committee members and faculty members at NYU Shanghai:

1. Interest in more interaction with colleagues in New York and Abu Dhabi
  - a. NYU Shanghai faculty members expressed interest in collaboration through the following venues:
    - i. joint research projects,
    - ii. joint conferences,
    - iii. annual meetings of heads of similar programs from the three Portals (for example: meeting of all three heads of the Writing Programs), and
    - iv. a possible slate of "Global Network Courses."
  - b. The committee agreed to follow up on what kind of funding might be available for such initiatives.
2. Application process for NYU Shanghai faculty to teach in Abu Dhabi, and vice versa
3. Importance of evoking, nurturing, and sustaining departmental commitment to programs at the Portals (beyond the interest of individual faculty members)
4. "Temperature" of feelings towards the Global Network University among faculty in New York, including chief concerns and misunderstandings
5. Tension between institutional emphasis on research vs. teaching, especially as it pertains to expectations (what NYU Shanghai expects from its standing faculty) and evaluations
  - a. It was noted that a great deal of time is devoted to students, in and out of class.
  - b. The question was raised of whether this is a function of scale, or a result of being in early days of the project.
6. Tension with some units at NYU New York around requirement of Square "approval" of new NYU Shanghai hires
7. Concern about preserving Liberal Arts identity in the face of disproportionate numbers of students focused on business and finance
  - a. The need for faculty to have more in-depth conversations with Admissions leadership was cited.
  - b. It was suggested that the focus on business and finance could be partially addressed through opportunities to declare "minors."
8. Governance structure
  - a. It was noted that a number of committees are in place (Faculty Affairs, Space, Student Affairs, etc.), and that NYU Shanghai faculty are working on a document about governance structure, using the NYU Abu Dhabi governance documents as a point of departure. A draft will be approved by the end of the year.
  - b. It was further noted that a number of other committees (including Curriculum, Labor Values, and Academic Technology), appointed by the leadership, will remain in place for the coming year or two until governance structure is more fully evolved.

9. Students

- a. NYU Shanghai faculty members expressed that they have great students who are actively engaged, have a pioneering spirit, and are generally satisfied (except for issues with dining and temporary housing, which are being addressed). Overall, there is excellent faculty-student rapport and communication.
- b. It was noted that there is student demand for some fields of study that are not currently represented (including psychology, sociology, political science, art, and performance).

10. Political and academic freedom

- a. It was agreed that no one at NYU Shanghai has experienced any restrictions yet, but this remains an area of concern.
- b. It was added that students have a newspaper and are free to publish whatever they want.

The co-chairs thanked the NYU Shanghai faculty members present for participating and providing input to the Faculty Forum.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Note:** After the meeting, some NYU Shanghai faculty members were in touch with the co-chairs to say how much they appreciate the support the faculty gets from NYU Shanghai leadership, especially Jeff Lehman, Joanna Waley-Cohen, and David Fitch. This topic did not get attention during the forum itself, since the structure did not allow for it, so these colleagues wanted to make sure the committee was well aware of their appreciation for the excellent working environment the leadership has provided for them.