NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Faculty Committee on the Global Network
Thursday, May 12, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
President's Conference Room (Bobst Library, 12ᵗʰ floor)

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN MEETING

Eliot Borenstein, FAS (Russian & Slavic Studies) *Co-Chair*
Una Chaudhuri, FAS (English) and Tisch (Drama) *Co-Chair*
Sylvain Cappell, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
Kevin Coffey, NYU Abu Dhabi
Lindsay Davies, Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee
Kevin Davis, School of Law
Guido Gerig, NYU Tandon School of Engineering (Computer Science and Engineering)
Liliana Goldin, Silver School of Social Work
Peter Gollwitzer, Provost's Council on Science and Technology
Dale Hudson, NYU Abu Dhabi
Ritty Lukose, Gallatin School of Individualized Study
Madeline Naegle, College of Nursing
Jan Plass, Committee on Technology-Enhanced Education (Steinhardt)
Vincent Renzi, Contract Faculty Senators Council
Gail Segal, Tisch School of the Arts
Paul Smoke, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Marti Subrahmanyam, Leonard N. Stern School of Business
Joshua Tucker, FAS (Politics)
Niobe Way, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

MEETING NOTES

Co-chairs Borenstein and Chaudhuri welcomed members to the last meeting of the semester.

Discussion of Final Report, pre-circulated in draft
Borenstein and Chaudhuri told the committee that after the existing report draft has been
finalized, they will write an executive summary of it. Chaudhuri thanked those committee
members who had assisted her in proofreading and clarifying the report.

Chaudhuri spoke of their attempts to design the report as a retrospective on the committee's
work that identifies the most important developments, continuing challenges, and items that
would require consideration in the future.

Chaudhuri and Borenstein agreed that the final report emphasizes the importance of NYU's continued commitment to facilitating faculty connectivity in order to activate the global network's potential in research, teaching, knowledge production, and innovative pedagogy. They have attempted to identify the most important modes of connectivity, including support of cross-portal research projects, conferences and symposia, and cross-portal courses. They also cite the ways in which faculty have become better informed about the Global Network, such as through the work of the Site-Specific Advisory Committees.

They noted that the following concerns are ongoing: academic freedom in the portals, labor standards in the portals, and finances of the global network as a whole. Faculty have also raised concerns that there are unequal benefits to different academic units depending on the extent of their involvement in the network, and a lack of recognition and compensation for the increased workload of those who work to establish programs abroad. This particular feedback has become less common, but it has remained a concern.

Other topics in the report that were touched on, amplified, or clarified in the discussion were: faculty circulation to the sites and the possibility of appointing an officer of global academics within university leadership.

Borenstein noted that he and Chaudhuri have been trying to use "Global Network University" less and "the University's global network" more. With this change, the global network does not modify the University; rather, it belongs to the University. Other committee members approved that language shift; one member shared that they have also heard the term "global academic network" in use.

Global Network Professor Title
Una discussed the process by which the new Global Network Professor title had been established last year, as well as evidence of considerable confusion among faculty about issues of eligibility and procedure. She reported that she has been in discussion with the chairs of other faculty committees on Global, including the T-FSC, and is proposing to take the lead in clarifying the title. The committee discussed a draft of a new proposal intended to clarify the title. Once this committee approves it, Borenstein and Chaudhuri will send it to the T-FSC and the C-FSC for their further study and recommendations.

Committee members agreed that the title should be available to all full-time faculty at NYU AD and NYU SH – including both contract and tenured faculty – and to select full-time faculty in New York. This New York group is already included in the current document, but the committee mulled the implications of including language saying that anyone in the portals who desire that connection to their home department is welcome to apply for the title. Chaudhuri emphasized that all portal faculty should have this opportunity to build stronger connections to colleagues in New York departments, in order to facilitate research and other collaborations.

The committee discussed the benefits of holding the Global Network Professor title. They agreed they consist mostly of recognition from disciplinary colleagues, but that the title could also serve as a foundation for collaboration. A committee member said that in her school, the faculty who teach in NYU AD and NYU SH have greatly appreciated the opportunity to be Global Network Professors. The titles have made them feel much more closely connected to NYU NY.

A committee member asked whether some faculty still hold affiliated appointments for the portals. Chaudhuri confirmed that faculty are automatically considered "affiliated" during the time they are teaching in the portal, and may be listed as such on the website.

Committee members asked what the "standard" is for faculty to earn the Global Network Professor title. Chaudhuri explained that when writing the proposal, they deliberately did not specify a standard, but included the phrase "long-term involvement in global network with substantial teaching in portals." The object of this ambiguity was to permit the portals to determine which faculty had earned the distinction. A committee member recommended that faculty be given a sense of what the standard for this title should be. For example, many faculty have taught in the portals every J Term for years; if this is not sufficient to earn the title, they should be made aware. The committee member advised against making this an entirely ad hoc process. Another committee member advised "erring on the side of inclusiveness."

Another committee member added that if professors could see themselves as Global Network Professors, it would assist in community-building. A committee member said that a clearer path to the title might enhance the involvement of other faculty in the global network. A committee member asked if they could add a requirement that New York faculty being considered for the title must be approved by portal provosts.

Niobe Way and Josh Tucker agreed to help Borenstein and Chaudhuri with the Global Network Professor proposal.

Chinese NGO Laws
A committee member raised the issue of newly-passed NGO laws in China, which are worrying to some faculty. She asked whether the administration has responded to this development in any way.

Another committee member confirmed that while NYU NY and NYU AD are considered non-profits, NYU SH is not.

Conclusion
A committee member thanked Borenstein and Chaudhuri for their work as co-chairs, and congratulated them on the skill and creativity with which they have managed difficult tasks. He expressed the faculty's gratitude for all they have done to promote and elevate discussion about faculty in the global network.

Borenstein and Chaudhuri thanked the committee for their work and promised to let them know when the final report can be shared.