



Faculty Committee on NYU's Global Network

Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 8:30am-10:00am EST

PCR (Bobst Library, 1218)

ATTENDANCE

Eliot Borenstein, Co-Chair, FAS (Russian and Slavic Studies)

Martin Klimke, Co-Chair, NYU Abu Dhabi

Ana Abraido-Lanza, College of Global Public Health

Sylvain Cappell, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences (Mathematics)/

Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Senators Council

Hallie Franks, Gallatin School of Individualized Study

Alexander Geppert, NYU Shanghai

Nicolas Graf, School of Professional Studies

Christian Haefke, NYU Abu Dhabi

Wen-Jui Han, Silver School of Social Work

Benjamin Hary, Global Sites

Deborah Kapchan, Tisch School of the Arts

Gavin Kilduff, Leonard N. Stern School of Business

Jung T. Kim, School of Medicine

Matthew Kleban, FAS (Physics)

Kristie Koenig, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development (Occupational Therapy)

Heather Lee, Assistant Professor, NYU Shanghai

Alexander Nagel, Institute of Fine Arts

Eugene Ostashevsky, Liberal Studies

Marianne Petit, Tisch School of the Arts

Gail Segal, Tisch School of the Arts

Paul Smoke, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

Allison Squires, Rory Meyers College of Nursing

Carol Sternhell, FAS (Journalism)

Peter Voltz, Tandon School of Engineering

Paul Wachtel, Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (Stern)

Jiawei Zhang, Leonard N. Stern School of Business

Andy Hamilton, President of New York University

Josh Taylor, Associate Vice Chancellor, Global Programs and Mobility Services

MEETING MINUTES

Discussion of Mobility Survey

Josh Taylor (Associate Vice Chancellor, Global Programs and Mobility Services) opened the meeting with a discussion on the potential implementation of a mobility survey for all faculty, students and staff who use immigration services at NYU. The idea for the survey came about as a potential solution to address past questions from the committee regarding the demographic breakdown of individuals who encountered immigration-related challenges while traveling throughout NYU's global network.

In preparation for this follow-up discussion with the committee, Josh Taylor met with members of various offices that work on mobility at NYU and drafted a proposed survey for the committee's review. The survey includes questions on demographic information, including a few data points that are not otherwise captured by the mobility report (such as religion and race/ethnicity), affiliation at NYU, as well as a few general "customer service" questions. The survey would take 20 minutes at most to complete and would be sent once a month to individuals who had received immigration assistance from any mobility office at NYU.

Josh Taylor noted that given the survey would be voluntary, several stakeholders had noted that they feared response rates would likely be very low, and that the effort may not provide useful data. In addition, as there are several offices throughout the global network that assist with mobility in some capacity, the logistics for administering the survey would require centralization in New York and regular coordination across schools and campuses, which can be challenging. Lastly, while the university is seeing an increase in immigration challenges faced by students throughout the global network (including to New York), the known annual rejection rates of faculty are small enough to be very challenging to analyze without making public personally-identifiable information

Given the uncertainty as to the survey's usefulness and the work required to administer it, Josh Taylor requested the committee's feedback on whether to move forward with the project. The committee acknowledged the challenges and discussed various ways to potentially address them. While the existing global mobility report produces an accurate rate of rejection, it does not include demographic data or address why certain individuals may or may not have been rejected. The committee wondered whether it might be useful to only administer the survey to those who faced immigration challenges so as to shed light on the potential issues. Josh Taylor noted that separating these individuals may be administratively difficult. The committee agreed to let Josh know how they would like to proceed.

Discussion with President Andrew Hamilton

Andy Hamilton thanked the committee for inviting him to join the meeting and expressed gratitude for all the committee does to support the university's global network. The global network has contributed greatly to the academic opportunities and standing of NYU, and it continues to evolve with changes in faculty leadership at the global sites (including in Paris, Florence, Accra and Madrid); the addition of the program in Los Angeles, which emerged out of school and faculty interest; and the potential for groups of sites to work more cohesively together. Looking for ways to support and strengthen the existing network and expand opportunities presents several exciting possibilities, and also sends a positive message of engagement during a time of insular tendencies in many areas of the world.

The committee noted that, historically, growth in the global network has come about in different ways; in some cases, global sites grew organically out of existing relationships, while others were established more purposefully. The committee wondered if there was a guiding principle or strategy behind some of the opportunities that Andy Hamilton mentioned, and if there was a particular number of sites that the university had in mind. Andy Hamilton agreed that these were both important issues to discuss and continuously debate, though he emphasized that size, in itself, should not be the goal; growth and/or consolidation should be in line with the needs of the university and its ability to sustain and strengthen academic excellence. To this end, it is important to routinely review the academic structure of the global network to ensure it is being used effectively while also recognizing that there are many partnerships and relationships that exist outside of the global network that also contribute to the academic vibrancy of NYU.

The committee then discussed the importance of academic freedom in the global network, as well as the structures in place to address challenges if and when they occur. Andy Hamilton underscored that NYU is committed to ensuring that academic freedom is held as one of its highest values. He furthermore elaborated that all also recognize that political, legal and cultural environments are different around the world, and that it is sometimes necessary to be mindful of these local conditions, particularly when out of the classroom and off campus. This has been true since the very beginning of NYU's global network, such as when NYU Madrid was opened in the midst of Francisco Franco's regime, and continues today as various local laws and cultural norms throughout the global network are recognized and respected. The most important safeguard is to ensure that all constituents are made aware of these local conditions and that there are processes in place for reporting issues. In these areas, NYU has excelled and will continue to support students and faculty when complaints are filed, including providing legal references and working with local officials on their behalf. It was noted that while public pronouncements may be helpful in some instances, they can also be counterproductive in helping a particular individual. Andy Hamilton welcomed additional feedback and suggestions from the committee on how to strengthen and increase awareness of the existing channels.

Lastly, the committee discussed the importance of maintaining connectivity between the portal campuses while also remaining flexible with university resources when academic structures in the global network evolve and needs change. While Both/And was the right principle in the early days of NYU Abu Dhabi, it has become clear that the overlap can serve as a barrier at times, and so new forms of connectivity should be explored to ensure standards of tenure are maintained. The Provost is carefully reviewing the committee's recommendations and is planning to provide an answer by the end of the semester.