MEETING MINUTES

Eliot Borenstein and Martin Klimke opened the meeting with introductions and a brief overview of the committee’s history and charge. Founded in 2013, the committee provides meaningful input and long-term strategic feedback to university leadership regarding NYU’s global activities and connectivity, while also addressing more time-sensitive issues and events as they arise. The co-chairs also reminded members of their role as ambassadors to their respective constituencies to disseminate information and explain matters relating to the global network.

The co-chairs provided a summary of the committee’s work from previous years, including its recommendations for coordinated hiring between NYU New York, NYU Shanghai and NYU Abu Dhabi; contract faculty; and connectivity throughout the global network. The committee reviewed the “University Guidelines for Appointments of Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty at NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai With Respect to Partnership and Consultation with NYU New York Schools” (August 26, 2019), which provides guidelines for a local tenure process at NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai that does not
require coordination with departments and schools in New York. Going forward, faculty hired under this local tenure process could be given an “unaffiliated” faculty appointment but could engage in research opportunities throughout the global network as well as other forms of pedagogical and curricular connectivity and increase the level of formalized connectivity (joint, associated, affiliated) subsequently. Joint, associated and affiliated appointments continue to be available and would follow the existing processes of coordinated hiring across the three portals.

The committee recognized that, though the new guidelines for coordinated hiring do not pertain to contract faculty, the decoupling of connectivity and employment status is a positive development. The committee agreed that ensuring that connectivity discussions are inclusive of contract faculty should continue to be a strategic agenda item for the committee this academic year. The Contract Faculty Senators’ Council will prepare a list of generalized areas of concern for the committee to discuss how best to support their contract faculty colleagues.

The committee also discussed how to foster connectivity beyond teaching, which is no longer a primary focus for facilitating connectivity, and research opportunities. Ensuring that there is sufficient funding available and that information is centralized are important in this regard, and several members also felt that providing opportunities for intellectual exchange, perhaps using the grant model to fund conferences or technology to showcase student capstone projects, maybe more impactful than creating bureaucratic processes for individual travel. It was also suggested that advising students of interdisciplinary opportunities and creating a platform that lists faculty circulation may help to facilitate connections between students and faculty from different home campuses.

The co-chairs also mentioned that they would be continuing the Global Faculty Fora from last year, with a live streamed event bringing together NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai faculty in the fall semester, and a Global Conversations event in the spring semester, which will bring select faculty from NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai to New York when the global site directors are scheduled to be in New York for their annual conference.

The co-chairs thanked the committee members for their participation and requested that committee members let them know if they have other agenda items for the committee to discuss and/or guests they would like to invite to the meetings for the year.