MEETING MINUTES

Eliot Borenstein and Martin Klimke opened the meeting and welcomed Provost and Professor of History Katherine Fleming. Provost Fleming turned the conversation to the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), and invited questions from the committee about the University’s response to the virus, particularly across the Global Network. She highlighted that the University is following the guidance from the Center for Disease Control. At NYU’s global locations, careful attention is also being given to local circumstances and policy changes that may affect the NYU community. The general principle is to first
ensure the health and safety of everyone. Making sure that students are able to continue progress toward their degrees is also a very high priority.

There is also concern about the possibility of members of our community having difficulty departing a country due to local policy related to travel and quarantine. There is awareness that international travel for academic purposes can be complicated by conditions on the ground. For instance, if an individual checked into a hotel while attending a conference, and one person is under suspicion of having contracted the virus, it is likely that the hotel guests may be quarantined for two weeks.

The committee asked about the insights that have been gleaned from the experience NYU Shanghai’s shift to online education during the temporary campus closure. NYU Shanghai committee members highlighted how well remote instruction is working. They remarked on the resilience of our students, particularly those located in Shanghai, and highlighted the overall positive experiences with remote teaching. Faculty have employed innovative pedagogical approaches with some using messaging applications, such as WeChat, to supplement communication with students and enable completion of academic activities. An Instagram account for the purpose of sharing online teaching and learning experiences will be online in the weeks ahead.

The committee noted that purchasing protective masks reduces the amount of available masks for health workers and others who need them most.

Provost Fleming thanked the committee for inviting her to the meeting, and the committee expressed their gratitude to her for attending and they noted that they have appreciated the University’s communication related to COVID, which has served to reduce fear. The chairs thanked the committee and welcomed the group to be in touch with further questions.