



Faculty Committee on NYU's Global Network

Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 8:15am-10:00am EST

ATTENDANCE

Eliot Borenstein, Co-Chair (FAS, Russian and Slavic Studies)
Martin Klimke, Co-Chair (NYU Abu Dhabi)
Awam Amkpa, Tisch School of the Arts
Amy Bentley, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Sylvain Cappell, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences (Mathematics)/
Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Senators Council
Rawan Dareer, Student Government Assembly
Alexander Geppert, NYU Shanghai
Nicolas Graf, School of Professional Studies
Christian Haefke, NYU Abu Dhabi
Ramesh Raghavan, Silver School of Social Work
Benjamin Hary, Global Sites
Deborah Kapchan, Tisch School of the Arts
Maya Kesrouany, NYU Abu Dhabi
Jung T. Kim, School of Medicine
Robin Klar, Rory Meyers College of Nursing
Matthew Kleban, FAS (Physics)
Marilyn Moffat, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Alexander Nagel, Institute of Fine Arts
Yaw Nyarko, Provostial At-Large Appointment (FAS Economics)
Adedamola Osinulu, Liberal Studies
Marianne Petit, Tisch School of the Arts
Jon Ritter, Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council (FAS Art History)
Deepak Saxena, College of Dentistry
Paul Smoke, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Carol Sternhell, FAS (Journalism)
Deepak Unnikrishnan, Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council (NYU Abu Dhabi)
Peter Voltz, Tandon School of Engineering
Paul Wachtel, Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (Stern)
Jiawei Zhang, Leonard N. Stern School of Business

Linda Mills, Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life; Lisa Ellen Goldberg Professor

MEETING MINUTES

Eliot Borenstein opened the meeting, conducted remotely via Zoom, by welcoming Linda Mills (Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life), who joined the meeting to

provide an update on contingency planning for Fall 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and to answer any questions or concerns from the committee.

Linda began by recognizing how difficult the semester has been for everyone, and urged the committee to let her know if there is anything she can do to further address the needs of the community. Linda then recounted the events to date, beginning with the closure of in-person activities at NYU Shanghai in January. The Office of Global Programs facilitated the relocation of students unable to enter China to other locations, with approximately 250 students enrolling at NYU New York and almost 100 students enrolling at the global sites and NYU Abu Dhabi. In February, Global Programs began evacuating students from Europe, starting with Italy, where NYU was one of the first universities to close its program, anticipating a border closure. In total, Global Programs evacuated over 1800 students from around the world. Since then, NYU Shanghai has begun to reopen with close monitoring, though travel to China continues to be heavily restricted.

With travel and immigration limitations unlikely to be meaningfully lifted in the months ahead, and with many members of the University community hesitant to travel long distances, the University has been working closely with various faculty constituencies -- including Professor Paul Boghossian, the University Senate, school deans and the Associate Vice Chancellors and Senior Academic Convenor of the Office of Global Programs (Eliot Borenstein, Marianne Petit, Zvi Ben-Dor Benite and Gbenga Ogedegbe) -- to provide multiple options for students so that they can continue to thrive in their education. NYU is in the unique position of being able to leverage its global network to provide opportunities for in-person instruction to many students around the world by adopting a "Go Local" strategy, whereby students residing in countries where NYU has a location (which accounts for approximately 85% of students across NYU's three campuses) could use that location as a "home base" for their studies. Students could enroll in courses offered at the location, as well as in remotely taught courses from their home campus, as needed. The Office of Global Programs is currently working with school deans to discuss the academic needs of their students and how best to serve the largest number of students possible, both by providing options for in-person instruction as well as by supplementing New York's course offerings to allow for synchronous remote instruction to students in various time zones. A communication will be sent to the University community in the coming days, with more details available later in May.

In addition to the Go Local strategy, the University continues to explore several other contingency plans so as to maximize options for students. While immigration and travel restrictions remain fluid, the University is monitoring the spread of the coronavirus and leveraging a variety of sources -- including news reports, official statements and government connections -- to determine whether study away may still be an option for some students, especially if a shortened calendar and other accommodations are implemented in order to mitigate bureaucratic hurdles. The University is also considering other options, such as moving to a three-semester schedule that would allow students to distribute 36 credits over three full semesters.

Linda acknowledged that there are several challenges that the University is continuing to work through. The physical safety and emotional comfort of the entire NYU community is of paramount concern, and Carlo Ciotoli (Associate Vice President, NYU Student Health - GNU; Executive Director, Student Health Center) is leading a committee to ensure that appropriate precautions are taken. The course of the pandemic is unpredictable, making it logistically difficult to plan for global site openings with any measure of certainty. In addition, how the global network is able to serve the incoming class of first-years and the

University's student population in India will require additional planning. Accommodating faculty who may not be currently located in the country of their home campus is another important consideration, as are the pedagogical hurdles of mixed mode instruction, where some students participate in-person and some students participate remotely, as well as of providing students with materials needed to complete work in certain disciplines, especially in the applied arts. Linda stressed that the University has and will continue to be nimble so as to quickly respond to these challenges, but she also encouraged, as much as possible, to embrace the creative possibilities that the current circumstances allow for, noting that she has heard from several students who feel that this experience has positioned them and encouraged them in directions they may not have thought about taking.

Linda thanked the committee for their generosity and for everyone's efforts to provide students with an NYU education despite the many challenges we are facing. Linda reminded everyone to please email her if they have any ideas, questions or concerns, emphasizing that the strength of NYU's response depends on everyone contributing to the conversation. Eliot Borenstein and Martin Klimke also made themselves available to speak with any of the committee's members throughout the summer.

Stay healthy and well!