Welcome, Committee Remit & Organization and Review of Last Year

Eliot Borenstein, Co-Chair of the committee, welcomed new and returning members of the committee and opened the meeting with introductions and a brief overview of the committee and its remit. Originally founded in 2013 as a working group, in 2014 the committee became a standing Provostial committee focusing on academic matters around the global network. Eliot reminded committee members that they serve an important role in bringing items for discussion to the committee, but also in communicating back to their respective units and schools.

For the last several years the committee has focused on addressing contract faculty in the global network and making sure, wherever possible, that new global opportunities and initiatives are also available to contract faculty. In some cases, the committee has referred questions and concerns regarding contract faculty and other matters to the appropriate committees and governing bodies. The committee hopes to
continue this important work during the coming academic year, recognizing that other time-sensitive matters may arise.

In addition, the committee has made progress in formalizing its structure and representation. Although most Provostial committees comprise solely appointed members, the Faculty Committee on NYU’s Global Network also comprises faculty members elected by their respective schools and units. As such, the committee has worked with the Provost’s office to develop a structure that is more in line with other faculty governance structures. Serving in their administrative capacities, Eliot Borenstein will continue to chair the committee in his role as Senior Convenor of the Global Network and Martine Klimke will serve as a Provostial appointment in his role as Vice Provost for Academic Policies and Governance at NYU Abu Dhabi. At the start of each year, the committee will elect an Executive Committee comprising a representative each from NYU Abu Dhabi, NYU New York, NYU Shanghai, and the NYU Global Sites, who will work with the committee chair in setting the committee agenda.

The committee proceeded to nominate and elect the Executive Committee members for the 2020-2021 academic year (NYU Shanghai membership will be selected at the next committee meeting when members are present):

- NYU Abu Dhabi: Maya Kesrouany
- NYU New York: Amy Bentley
- NYU Global Sites: Benjamin Hary

Reports from NY, AD, SH Campuses and Update on the Global Network

Representatives updated the committee on current activities at their respective location. NYU Abu Dhabi is offering remote-only instruction, which has been challenging from a technological perspective given that 80% of the student population is international and is located in various time zones. Approximately 800 students are currently living on campus and are completing their second week of quarantine.

At NYU New York, traditional study away has been largely suspended for the semester and replaced by “Go Local,” in which students located near one of NYU’s locations can take some in-person courses at the site. Courses offered at the global sites also provide online courses in more convenient time zones for remote students outside of the degree-granting campuses. About 3000 undergraduate students and 700 graduate students are participating in Go Local, the majority of whom are at NYU Shanghai. Over the summer, NYU Shanghai did tremendous work to secure additional teaching space and hire more instructors to accommodate approximately 2300 Go Local students.

In addition to NYU Shanghai, there are approximately 80 students at NYU DC; 90 students at NYU LA (remote instruction only due to local restrictions); over 150 students at the global sites in Europe (excluding some GRI scholars); and 25 students at the global sites outside of Europe.

While the semester has only just begun, the Go Local program has been going well, and many schools and units are looking ahead to the spring and summer sessions. January term at the global sites has largely been suspended, and study away will resume as soon as it is judged to be safe and possible from a travel and immigration perspective. NYU Abu Dhabi is hoping to welcome its students for the spring semester, though this will be dictated by the local health situation. Many on the committee noted that their assumption is that the summer session will offer primarily general education requirements, though the committee as a whole looks forward to hearing more about planning for Summer 2021. In addition, some members noted that there have been some questions of whether tenure-track faculty will be allowed to extend the tenure clock, though this has not been discussed in a formal capacity.