



Faculty Committee on NYU's Global Network
Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 8:30am-10:00am EST

ATTENDANCE

Eliot Borenstein, Chair (FAS Russian and Slavic Studies)
Amy Bentley, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development (Nutrition and Food Studies)
Mosette Broderick, Faculty of Arts and Science (Art History)
Sylvain Cappell, Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Senators Council (Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences)
Scott Collard, Division of Libraries
Duane Corpis, NYU Shanghai
Nicolas Graf, School of Professional Studies
Benjamin Hary, Global Sites (FAS Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
Deborah Kapchan, Tisch School of the Arts
Gavin Kilduff, Leonard N. Stern School of Business
Robin Klar, Rory Meyers College of Nursing
Martin Klimke, NYU Abu Dhabi
Marilyn Moffat, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
Alexander Nagel, Institute of Fine Arts
Yaw Nyarko, Provostial At-Large Appointment (FAS Economics)
Danielle Ompad, College of Global Public Health
Adedamola Osinulu, Liberal Studies
Marianne Petit, Technology-Enhanced Education (Tisch School of the Arts)
Jon Ritter, Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council (FAS Art History)
Shafer Smith, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
Peter Voltz, Tandon School of Engineering
Paul Wachtel, Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (Stern)
Joseph Weiler, School of Law
Yanyue Yuan, NYU Shanghai
Jiawei Zhang, Leonard N. Stern School of Business

Andrew Hamilton, President

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

MEETING MINUTES

The committee opened the meeting with a discussion on the Site-Specific Advisory Committees (SSACs) and how better to engage faculty in the global network, both in terms of encouraging participation and ensuring information is shared and accessible. The committee discussed whether there might be alternative and/or complementary ways of engaging faculty, such as scheduling an annual presentation by Eliot Borenstein and Marianne Petit to update each department on activities and developments at the global sites. Several members expressed interest in this model, though others wondered if this might be redundant, especially for those schools that already have global coordinators or other global committee structures in place.

Members also noted that faculty might appreciate updates on opportunities for faculty circulation, both to and from the portals as well as the global sites. While teaching at another location has proven to be very difficult for various reasons, there were several opportunities for short-term visits to the global sites prior to COVID-19, such as through conferences, GRI, and the Global Faculty Fund (GFF). Such activities, which can be found on the [Faculty in the Global Network webpage](#), are expected to resume at some point.

The committee then welcomed Andy Hamilton, President of NYU, and Linda Mills, Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life, to the meeting and thanked them for joining. Andy discussed the university's vision of the future of the global network in light of COVID-19. Early on in the pandemic the university decided to prioritize flexibility -- allowing students to choose how and where they learn, given the numerous impediments involved in arriving at their home campuses. This flexibility has helped NYU to navigate the pandemic and withstand unpredictable directives given by city, state and federal governments. This approach has also applied to the global network, which has given NYU a unique ability to support students around the world. University leadership is confident that there will be a return to normalcy for the fall semester. Decisions about each study away site will unfold based on the public health mandates in each country, together with visa and travel restrictions.

Andy noted that the logistical and financial challenges of the past year have been immense. In consultation with faculty through various faculty governance structures (including the Deans Council, T-FSC and C-FSC, among others), the university identified areas where savings could be realized so as to prevent the large-scale layoffs and dramatic program changes that many other universities have implemented. Unfortunately, this required making some difficult decisions, including closing the first-year away program at NYU Paris and not renewing the lease on NYU's academic center in Sydney. The office of Global Programs is in discussion with the NYU Sydney Advisory Committee and its faculty chair on various opportunities to relocate the program. Indeed, despite the myriad challenges of COVID-19, Andy was optimistic that the global network would emerge stronger and more central to NYU's identity. In addition to NYU's ability to accommodate anticipated student demand for study abroad, it may be possible that elements of remote education and the Go Local program could continue in parallel with traditional study away, thus providing greater, year-round support for students.

Lastly, Andy addressed the incident in which Zoom unexpectedly canceled an event scheduled by NYU faculty. Andy assured the committee that NYU's commitment to academic freedom and the primacy of faculty to decide what they teach and whom they invite is unwavering. While NYU cannot compel a third party platform, such as Zoom, to act in ways that are contrary to its own legal counsel's guidance, NYU will continue to provide faculty and students with access to multiple platforms in support of academic freedom. While the incident was indeed troubling, Andy assured faculty that NYU has had millions of hours of content disseminated over Zoom in the past year without disruption.

Andy thanked the faculty for inviting him to their meeting, and for their continued dedication in supporting students during this very difficult time.