



**Faculty Committee on NYU's Global Network**  
*Wednesday, April 13, 8:30am-10:00am EST*

ATTENDANCE

- **Eliot Borenstein** (FAS Russian and Slavic Studies)
- **Adedamola Osinulu**, Liberal Studies
- **Amy Bentley**, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development (Nutrition & Food Studies)
- **Aurora Wallace**, Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development)
- **Ayham Adawi**, Student Government Assembly
- **Benjamin Hary**, Global Sites (FAS Hebrew & Judaic Studies)
- **Danielle Ompad**, School of Global Public Health
- **Erich Dietrich**, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
- **Jiawei Zhang**, Leonard N. Stern School of Business
- **Shafer Smith**, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
- **Ken Nielsen**, Continuing Contract Faculty Senators Council (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- **Marianne Petit**, Technology-Enhanced Education (Tisch School of the Arts)
- **Maya Kesrouany**, NYU Abu Dhabi
- **Mosette Broderick**, Faculty of Arts and Science (Art History)
- **Nathalie Peutz**, NYU Abu Dhabi
- **Nicolas Graf**, School of Professional Studies
- **Robin Klar**, Rory Meyers College of Nursing
- **Salo V Coslovsky**, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
- **Scott Collard**, Division of Libraries
- **Sylvain Cappell**, Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Senators Council (CIMS)
- **Vasuki Nesiah**, Gallatin School of Individualized Study
  
- **Cecil Scheib**, Chief Sustainability Officer

## MEETING MINUTES

Eliot provided a brief order of agenda items and welcomed Cecil Scheib, NYU's Chief Sustainability Officer.

Cecil opened the discussion with an overview of the climate goals for the three portals: New York, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai. In 2007, NYU set a goal to reduce carbon footprints by 30% in its New York City campus, and in 2012, that goal was met. They set a further goal of a net 50% reduction in building-related emissions by 2025, and a 25% reduction in food-related emissions by 2030 (which includes Abu Dhabi and Shanghai). Food is about one-third of global emissions, and there are faculty members at NYU who have validated the science of their work and the impact of food choices.

The university tracks the burning of fossil fuels and food purchasing on sites at the three portals (New York, Abu Dhabi, Shanghai) as well as the four largest sites (London, Florence, Paris, and Prague). A single flight has the greatest impact, but this could also be compared to a meatless lunch several times a week. Individual carbon footprints are usually determined by transportation—driving and flying—but Cecil noted it would be important to note that small changes, such as eating less meat and turning off a computer when not in use, could also provide a significant impact over time. In a recent virtual conference, a study showed that there was 60x less greenhouse gas emissions from flying less. For significant voluntary savings, faculty members could consider thinking about their options in reducing work-related travel by prioritizing cost-effective and low-carbon alternatives. Cecil then discussed offsets and provided a guideline to their validity. An offset would be valid when it is permanent (lasting in perpetuity and irreversible), additional (not occurring during a business-as-usual scenario), verifiable (monitored and confirmed), enforceable (counted only once by a single organization and then retired), and real (legitimate and no a product of creative accounting). This model is consistent with the sustainability efforts being implemented in other higher education institutions.

The committee discussed the University's intention to further divest from fossil fuel companies, and Cecil referenced President Hamilton's memo ([LINK](#)) on this topic, and confirmed that what is being considered now is indirect investments through index funds. 99% of emissions are from buildings and the energy used within the buildings, and the University has worked diligently to obtain a LEED standard certification for green buildings for new construction. Two dozen projects are on track to be LEED certified—which adds up to about two-million sq ft. This includes 370 Jay Street, 181 Mercer, and other new projects coming online.

Faculty and students spend more than 90% of their time indoors in buildings, and the temperature in these settings has a great effect on individuals' health and comfort. Given this, it is crucial to consciously focus on energy savings in buildings which will positively impact sustainability efforts, as well as increasing the comfort of those who spend most of their time in buildings. Cecil further discussed the portals and their ongoing sustainability efforts and discussed the creation of a sustainability working group under the oversight of a new Sustainability Officer specifically in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai. Lastly, Cecil announced 2040 Week, a major NYU initiative during Earth Month in the upcoming academic year, which intends to engage members of the NYU committee in an immersive experience of a sustainable future by involving faculty and students in this process.

Cecil discussed stairwell usage and the "miracle pill"—a scientific study that showed the positive effects of meeting the WHO guideline for 150 minutes of moderate exercise a week, such as walking upstairs, biking to work, and/or walking briskly. Within the School of Global Public Health, Cecil has been collaborating with a class and their students to research and come up with campaigns for stairwell access and usage across three buildings—Kimmel Center, Warren Weaver Hall, and 105 East 17th Street.

The committee then discussed the lockdown status in Shanghai and possible avenues to providing support to faculty, administrators, and students in the portal campus. Eliot closed the meeting with assurance to inquire to specific constituents regarding this issue and what role the committee could take in providing logistical support to those affected.