

April 5, 2016, 8:00 - 9:20 am
19 Washington Square North, Event Space
Cross-Committee Meeting Attendees and Minutes

In attendance:

Co-Chairs, Cross-Committee Meeting:

Eliot Borenstein (FAS), Co-Chair, Faculty Committee on NYU's Global Network; Chair, NYU Prague SSAC

Linda Mills (SSSW), Vice Chancellor, Global Programs and University Life

Senate Committees:

Awam Amkpa (FAS/Tisch), Co-Chair, Global Network University Committee, T-FSC

Amy Michelle Becker (Shanghai), Chair, Global Network University Committee, C-FSC

Una Chaudhuri (FAS/Tisch), Co-Chair, Faculty Committee on NYU's Global Network

Arvind Rajagopal (Steinhardt), Co-Chair, Global Network University Committee, T-FSC

Site Specific Advisory Committees:

Virginia Cox (FAS), Academic Director, NYU Florence; Chair, NYU Florence SSAC

Patrick J. Egan (FAS), Chair, NYU Washington DC

Lisa Gitelman (Steinhardt), Co-Chair, NYU Buenos Aires

Karen A. Hornick (Gallatin), Chair, NYU Berlin

Laura Levine (Tisch), Co-Chair, NYU London

Lorena Llosa (Steinhardt), Chair, NYU Madrid

Fred R. Myers (FAS), Chair, NYU Sydney

Susan C. Rogers (FAS), Chair, NYU Paris

Olugbenga Ogedegbe (CGPH), Chair, NYU Accra

Alejandro Velasco (Gallatin), Co-Chair, NYU Buenos Aires

Paul Wachtel (Stern), Co-Chair, NYU London

Site Directors:

Akosua Anyidoho (FAS), Site Director, NYU Accra

Gabriella Etmektsoglou (Gallatin), Site Director, NYU Berlin

Anna Kazumi Stahl (Gallatin), Site Director, NYU Buenos Aires

Ellyn Toscano, Site Director, NYU Florence

Gary Slapper (FAS), Site Director, NYU London

Catherine Robson (FAS), Academic Director, NYU London

Rob Lubar (IFA), Site Director, NYU Madrid

Benoit Bolduc (FAS), Site Director, NYU Paris

Jiri Pehe (FAS), Site Director, NYU Prague

Mal Semple (FAS), Site Director, NYU Sydney

Benny Hary (FAS), Site Director, NYU Tel Aviv

Michael Ulrich, Site Director, NYU Washington DC

Portal Representatives:

Kerry Barrett, Assistant Dean of Global Programs, NYU

Carol Brandt, Assoc. Vice Chancellor, Global Education & Outreach; Vice Provost, NYU Abu Dhabi

John Robertson, Assistant Provost of Academic Affairs, NYU Shanghai

Andrew Hamilton, President

MEETING SUMMARY:

Eliot Borenstein and Linda Mills served as co-chairs for this meeting of the three globally focused faculty committees. The meeting opened at 8:10 am with introductions around the table.

A discussion began around the purpose of this first cross-committee meeting and what the group would find most helpful to discuss from the previously distributed agenda. It was noted that President Andrew Hamilton would join at around the midpoint of the meeting. It was stated that while the recent presidential transition was significant, it is still important that the faculty work to shape the vision and direction of this conversation around the global network (GN).

The group then moved into a variety of discussion topics that included the inclusion of the portals in the conversation of study away, the academic scholarship of students during the study away experience, and the importance of ensuring that the study away experience includes significant local engagement.

A member raised a concern that students may not work as hard away as at their home campus; other members offered that the planning and control of the courses offered at the sites remain with the home departments and Site Specific Advisory Committees (SSACs), most often through the development of academic pathways. It was noted that GPA requirements on the study away application review process prevent students from pursuing study away as a “good time,” and students are held to strict attendance policies at the sites. Further discussion ensued regarding the differing needs of students depending on where they were in their academic career at NYU; that the needs of sophomores versus those who have chosen majors that require training are different and it may be beneficial to look at those groups separately. Following, it was offered that Global Programs (GP) would look at what a sophomore vs. junior/senior experience might look like and consider the question with the SSACs of how many programs are needed that are tailored vs. general. It was also mentioned that these questions are not answered when considering students’ experiences in New York (NY)/at their home campuses.

Another member and a Site Director discussed the idea of coherent site identities. It was noted that sites with long histories are beginning to benefit from the clarity that SSAC involvement provides, as programs are retired and new, more locally-relevant programs are fostered. It was also noted that, as this approach continues to evolve, the academics at the site will continue to improve and that sites are able to use this specialization to hire accomplished local faculty with strong local connections. In addition, it was offered that the more departments partner with sites on their actual academic needs, the better the sites can support these needs while also helping to further express the site’s local identity. It was stated that portals must be better integrated into the global conversation, particularly on curriculum; it was noted that faculty have been most excited about the opportunities around teaching and research collaborations across the portals. An additional comment was shared about how the departments in Abu Dhabi (AD) and Shanghai (SH) are not as compartmentalized as at NY, which may translate to more opportunities for students.

President Andrew Hamilton then arrived at 8:45 am. He expressed his thanks to all for the work the members have contributed to the development of the global network, and discussed his strong support of this effort, a university initiative that cannot fail. President Hamilton expressed his appreciation for the group laying down the educational philosophy behind the GN and the right mechanisms for implementation and oversight. He stated he will be thinking in late summer and early fall about the interesting questions around the pedagogical value of study away and that the university should have an understanding of an investigation into the advantages of study abroad.

Following President Hamilton's arrival, a discussion ensued about how the global network allows for a completely different classroom experience, not only based on the forced mixing of students in the classroom – NY, AD, SH and local students – but also through the small classroom sizes, or in approaching topics in completely new ways. It was stated that when faculty teach in these very diverse classrooms, they have to adjust their pedagogy accordingly, which can be very exciting in and of itself. This new approach to teaching is a topic that is now becoming of scholarly interest to AD faculty, as well as faculty around the world and would never have emerged if not for the global network. Furthermore, it was stated that one of the benefits of the global network is that in the diverse classrooms “things” are not taken for granted, as they might be in NY; that the faculty might be able to create “self-aware” classrooms with this interesting mix of students.

The discussion then turned to the challenges of communicating the interesting ideas and the work that has been done to internal audiences. It was shared that there is a time-lag on what is actually going on in the sites and the portals, and that faculty need to continually explain this work to colleagues at departmental levels. There was an acknowledgement that the members in the room have managed to move this forward because of the SSACs and other GN committees, but that most people outside the room just don't know. It was posited that this might be an inflection moment the group leverages to bring people together for a larger conversation and perhaps create a conference around these issues. The question was raised whether the next cross-committee meeting may be the right venue to develop a conference. It was also discussed how the university could use the conference concept as a way to further disseminate information internally. A few members mentioned that site and portal faculty should be included as additional voices in the development of a conference. There was also a brief discussion on the recent diversity, inclusion and equity conversation that occurred in NY and how what is happening in the United States in this area is translated across the GN.

The meeting then adjourned at 9:25 am.