New York University

Faculty Committee on the Global Network
Thursday, March 10, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
President's Conference Room, Bobst Library

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN MEETING

Eliot Borenstein, FAS (Russian & Slavic Studies) *Co-Chair*
Una Chaudhuri, FAS (English) and Tisch (Drama) *Co-Chair*
Sylvain Cappell, Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences
Kevin Coffey, NYU Abu Dhabi
Lucinda Covert-Vail, Division of Libraries
Lindsay Davies, Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee
Guido Gerig, NYU Tandon School of Engineering (Computer Science and Engineering)
Liliana Goldin, Silver School of Social Work
Peter Gollwitzer, Provost's Council on Science and Technology
Dale Hudson, NYU Abu Dhabi
Ritty Lukose, Gallatin School of Individualized Study
Vicki Morwitz, Leonard N. Stern School of Business
Madeline Naegle, College of Nursing
Marianne Petit, NYU Shanghai
Jan Plass, Committee on Technology-Enhanced Education
Arvind Rajagopal, Tenured/Tenure-Track Faculty Senators Council
Vincent Renzi, Contract Faculty Senators Council
Lisa Springer, School of Professional Studies
Marti Subrahmanyam, Leonard N. Stern School of Business
Joshua Tucker, FAS (Politics)

Guests:
Assistant Vice President and Director of Global Services **Sherif Barsoum;** Director of the Writing Program and Senior Lecturer **Amy Becker** (NYU Shanghai); Associate Professor **John Burt** (NYU Abu Dhabi); Senior Associate Provost and Chief of Staff to the Provost **Carol Morrow;** Assistant Professor **Adam Ramey** (NYU Abu Dhabi); Associate Director of Immigration and Mobility Services **Robert Sanford;** Clinical Assistant Professor **Larry Slater** (College of Nursing); Associate Professor **Carol Sternhell** (FAS - Journalism); Associate Vice Chancellor of Global Programs **Josh Taylor**

MEETING NOTES

Co-chairs Eliot Borenstein and Una Chaudhuri welcomed the members of the committee and guests from the Office of the Provost, the Office of Global Services (OGS), the Tenure/Tenure-Track Faculty Senators Council (T-FSC) Global Network University Committee, and the Continuing Faculty Senators Council (C-FSC) Global Network University Committee.

The meeting focused in its entirety on a report from the Provost's Office on *Mobility Across NYU's Global Network,* presented by Carol Morrow, Senior Associate Provost and Chief of Staff in the Office of the Provost; Josh Taylor, Associate Vice Chancellor of Global Programs; and Sherif Barsoum, Assistant Vice President and Director of Global Services. The report was prepared in response to requests from the Faculty Committee on the Global Network and the FSC GNU committees.

Morrow presented a PowerPoint that provided context and background for the report, noting that it is the first of its kind for the University and constituted the first occasion for the data to be aggregated, standardized, and reported. She noted that a preliminary version of the report was presented in January to the leadership of the three GNU committees, and that their feedback was incorporated into its current iteration.

Morrow emphasized that identifying and mitigating obstacles to mobility is critical to supporting the academic principles and goals of the global network, and that NYU's challenge is to optimize these values within the restraints imposed by a complex and shifting immigration environment. Morrow discussed the preparation of the report, including the data sources, the categories of travelers* and the time period covered by the report, and some of the issues in data collection and reporting with respect to knowing the circumstances of each case that is delayed or denied. Morrow reported that overall, the vast majority of NYU faculty, students, and staff get where they want to go when they want to get there. She ended her presentation with a discussion of how the University is using this exercise to fine-tune administrative and academic processes to enhance mobility of NYU travelers for teaching, learning, and scholarship across NYU portals and sites.

A detailed report was distributed, encompassing seven data charts, a preface, a note on data, and an appendix listing University resources for NYU travelers. Josh Taylor and Sherif Barsoum took the committee through the charts. The following issues came up in discussion:

NYU Overall
There are roughly 14,000 international students enrolled at NYU, more than any other university in the world. NYU is also ranked #1 on the [Institute of International Education's Open Doors Report](#) lists of leading institutions for study abroad participation.

The report does not include non-NYU travelers to the portals and sites; those who travel to other countries but do not visit NYU's campuses (i.e. NYU students or faculty who are visiting China, but not going to NYU Shanghai); NYU faculty delivering lectures or speaking at conferences at NYU portals and sites (since those invitations are decentralized and therefore not on record).

A committee member asked whether the expanded size of the global network has had a negative effect on mobility. Taylor explained that the size of the network has been a strength overall, as the number of portals and sites enables the University to offer students alternative locations when and if their first choices fall through.

This year, OGS contacted almost 3,500 accepted students to offer assistance with their visa application processes. At this time, NYU does not have a university-wide centralized travel registry.

In response to a query about non-NYU guests and speakers traveling to countries where NYU is convening conferences, it was noted that while this is important to know, it is not feasible to collect the data since invitations to attend events are decentralized, with invites issued by individual departments, and even individual faculty.

In response to a query, Barsoum explained that OGS counsels students and faculty to apply early enough that expedited services for fee would not be necessary, but that when necessary, we certainly make people aware of those services.

NYU Abu Dhabi
Since AY09-10, 97.3% of travelers to NYU AD successfully completed the visa process; this number varies slightly from year to year. Of students, faculty, researchers, staff, and academic support personnel, researchers have the lowest success rate (89.3%). Of the ten faculty (out of 747) denied entry over the course of seven years, none were NYU NY faculty traveling to NYU AD, and pending confirmation, were not primarily those expected to receive tenure or tenure-track offers. (Taylor subsequently confirmed and a note of clarification was added to the relevant chart to note that of the ten, three were strong candidates for tenure-track offers.)

In response to a question about how NYU handles situations when government restrictions make it difficult for faculty and students to participate, particularly with respect to Israelis traveling to Abu Dhabi, Taylor noted that a number of Israelis with dual passports travel regularly to NYU Abu Dhabi, and that NYU AD has admitted a student with dual citizenship as well. He also noted that Israel recently opened a diplomatic office in Abu Dhabi (related to its work with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which is based there. He also noted that the breadth of the global network provides alternatives for faculty and students when visa issues do arise (for example, Chinese students having choices other than NYU Sydney, which until recently was off limits to Chinese nationals).

NYU Shanghai
Over the last three years, there has been only one case of a faculty member not receiving a visa in time to travel to NYU Shanghai. Since AY13-14, 351 of 352 NYU travelers were approved.

NYU New York and Washington DC
Barsoum informed the committee that over the last year, OGS issued documents for 371 faculty and researchers traveling to NYU New York and NYU Washington DC; 354

satisfactorily completed the process. He reviewed the types of visas available to these travelers to the U.S., including the most common J1 visa for exchange visitors, including professors, research scholars, short-term scholars, and specialist categories. Barsoum also noted that the OPT (Optional Practical Training) program, which had previously allowed students in STEM-related academic programs on F1 visas to stay in the U.S. for one year, has recently been revised, to allow these students to extend their stays in the U.S. to three years.

Taylor explained that of the countries visited by NYU students, United States customs requirements are often most challenging to navigate, particularly for those coming from Abu Dhabi and other Middle Eastern countries. (One reason for difficulty, Barsoum noted, is the division of oversight between the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security, which handle visas and immigration forms, respectively.) The issues are national security as well as economic concerns; a committee member observed that students from Ghana accepted to the School of Nursing often encounter delays in exiting their home countries as well as entering the U.S., since they are expected to demonstrate their intention to leave the U.S. after completion of their programs.

Barsoum noted common travel experiences for NYU international travelers, including the risk of being denied entry to the U.S. after travel abroad.

While there is a high success rate overall among traveling students and faculty, the Office of Global Services and its counterparts in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai are committed to finding new ways to assist travelers. One ongoing question for OGS and most universities is how to advise students covered by the DREAM (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors) Act, who may encounter difficulty at U.S. customs. Another faculty member asked whether NYU might compare its students' experiences with the experiences of those who travel for NGO's and other similar organizations.

The Office of the Provost was asked to distribute the report to all members of the three committees participating in the meeting.

Note: The report was distributed and, pending a comment period, was posted online. **The PowerPoint and the full report can now be viewed at [Faculty in the Global Network](#).**

Co-chairs Borenstein and Chaudhuri thanked all guests for their participation, and Morrow, Taylor, Barsoum, and their colleagues for their work in compiling the report. The meeting concluded at 9:30 am.

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