

**Global Priorities Committee
Report on activities, 2017-2018
Erika Weinthal (Committee chair)**

The Global Priorities Committee (GPC) is an advisory committee to the Vice President and Vice Provost for Global Affairs and to the Provost. The GPC is charged with reviewing and refining Duke's global strategy and assessing university and academic programs and activities operating globally, both when they are being created and in monitoring their ongoing performance.

The committee is comprised of 12 faculty members: six from schools with undergraduate bodies and six from the professional schools. It meets monthly and reviews a wide range of topics relevant to Duke's global mission. Below is a summary of those topics covered by the GPC in the 2017-2018 academic year.

Duke Kunshan University

In September the committee received an update from Jennifer Francis, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, on progress made towards establishing the undergraduate program. This update focused largely on faculty and student recruitment, curriculum development, and infrastructure and facilities progress. The committee also discussed how the GPC could be leveraged most effectively vis-à-vis DKU: GPC can serve as a platform for considering how to bring innovations in pedagogy and research activities at DKU into programming at Duke in a manner that can be impactful in both places. GPC can also discuss how educational technology can strengthen the connectivity between the two campuses.

In January the committee heard from Xin Li about the new proposed Electrical and Computer Engineering Master's degree. The committee commended Professor Li on his proposal for training that is clearly in demand in China and raised issues for further clarification as the proposal moves through the university approval process.

India Office

GPC continued advising the Office of Global Affairs (OGA) on the establishment of the India Office in Bangalore. Progress over the last year is as follows: an Executive Director for the office was hired and began work in May 2017; the office was publicly launched in September 2017; a physical office space was determined and will open in April 2018; and a faculty advisory committee was formed. GPC will continue to advise OGA as it moves forward with establishing a non-profit entity in India that can accept local donations.

Online Global Education

GPC believes that global online learning remains an important topic of discussion, since digital connections can help facilitate international collaboration in an increasingly complex world. The committee received an update from Matthew Rascoff, Associate Vice Provost for Digital Education and Innovation, about his online education strategy. GPC encouraged Rascoff to continue developing the global aspect of the online learning strategy and suggested focusing on areas in which Duke has strategic interest, such as East Africa, India, and Brazil.

Duke at Home in the World

The committee provided guidance to OGA on a month-long series of global events to take place in November 2018. The events will highlight Duke's global engagement and its local impact; it will, by featuring events across the campus, serve to foster collaboration across units; and serve as an opportunity for stakeholders at Duke to critically examine what it means to engage globally. OGA has formed a faculty planning committee with representation from each school to garner campus-wide involvement.

Research and Programs

Throughout this academic year, GPC has received reports from a number of global initiatives and programs on campus.

1. The committee heard from Chris Simmons, Associate Vice President, Office of Government Relations, about his office's efforts to manage the relations between the federal government and the university. The committee encouraged the office to seek ways to keep schools and faculty informed about the status of federal funding, perhaps by presenting to Academic Council.
2. Ravi Bellamkonda, Dean of the Pratt School of Engineering, presented Pratt's initial global strategy plans. As the school continues to define its global strategy, the committee suggested considering a cross-cutting theme, such as water and sanitation, which would incorporate work at the Nicholas School of the Environment and Duke Global Health Institute (DGHI) in addition to Pratt, while also addressing one of the new strategic plan themes.
3. The committee heard from Lydia Olander, Director of the Ecosystem Services Program at the Nicholas Institute, about new work catalyzed across Duke on China's One Belt One Road (BRI) initiative, and suggested including Chinese universities in this work and looking at the impact of BRI beyond China.
4. Dr. Krishna Udayakumar, Duke Global Health Institute, presented the activities of the Duke Global Health Innovation Center in the located administratively in DGHI. The committee suggested Duke Learning Innovation and the Libraries as new connections for the center.
5. Suzanne Katzenstein, Research Scholar and Project Director of the Duke Human Rights Center at the Kenan Institute for Ethics, shared with the committee the work of the Duke Human Rights Center at Kenan. The committee was pleased to hear about planned collaboration between at least two of the human rights centers at Duke (the other being at the Franklin Humanities Institute), but felt that ideally, the different groups would come together under one banner at Duke. The separation makes it hard to showcase the totality of Duke's human rights work, especially in the global realm, which could be developed to be a signature strength.
6. Erik Wibbels (Professor, Department of Political Science) and Erica Field (Professor, Department of Economics) presented details about the DevLab@Duke, which identifies and captures assessment and impact evaluation design of larger USAID and other development grants. The committee was impressed with the progress the Lab made in such a short period of time and shared this impression with university leadership, and hoped that its work would continue to include scholars across the campus.

In the year ahead, GPC plans to update its meeting structure to make it a more effective and focused body. It will meet only on an as-needed basis to consider portfolios of established global programs, specific global projects that have potential significant impact, and any other high profile global activities. It will continue to report directly to the provost. In addition, in the coming year, GPC will form a subcommittee to draft a new Global Vision Statement to update the 2013 version. The new statement will serve as a guiding document for all global units at Duke.

To conclude, GPC has had a very active year. There is a growing wide array of global efforts and of global collaborations taking place among the different units at Duke. GPC continues to encourage feedback from members of Academic Council on topics that GPC should consider in its meetings.