## MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

**TALLOIRES NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE**

**WARWICK HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY**

**September 23 and 24, 2015**

**Attendees:** Lisa Anderson (American University in Cairo), Ernest Aryeetey (University of Ghana), Cheryl de la Rey (University of Pretoria), Mark Gearan (Hobart and William Smith Colleges), Abdul Ghafoor (Representing Muhammad Asghar, National University of Sciences and Technology), Sara Ladrón de Guevara (Universidad Veracruzana), Lorraine McIlrath (National University of Ireland, Galway), Anthony Monaco (Tufts University), Olive Mugenda (Kenyatta University), Philip Steenkamp (Representing Andrew Petter, Simon Fraser University), Andrew Vann (Charles Sturt University), Angie Yuen (Representing Tim Tong, Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

**Students:** Basavan Patil (National Law School of India), Arthur Fields (Tufts University), Purity Gitonga (Laikipia University), Bernardo Mella Troncoso (Universidad Austral de Chile)

**TN Secretariat**: Lorlene Hoyt, Rob Hollister, Matías Ramos, Amy Newcomb, Jennifer Catalano, Jacqueline DiMichele, Brianda Hernandez

**Guests:** Mim Nelson (Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service, Tufts University), Maryam Mohiuddin and Saad Idrees (Lahore University of Management Sciences), Carol Carrier (YEPI Learning Partner Team, University of Minnesota)

**TN Programs Progress Review**

Membership size and expectations

* Number of members has increased modestly, but proportion of active members has grown dramatically in last two years.
* Group agreed that we should strive for growth in geographic areas where TN is limited at present. This is more important than overall number in numbers.
* Key questions raised by group: What do we want membership to represent? Should a specified level of performance be required for membership? Should members be expected to periodically report their engagement activities?

Extent and types of engagement activities

* Universities and engagement work are bound up in culture and context. There has been no growth recently in the Middle East because university engagement is not possible in a period of harsh political strife. It was agreed that TN should acknowledge this reality and support universities that are under duress.
* There is continuing diversity in the kinds of activities that constitute engagement.
* Group confirmed that TN should be an umbrella where a broad range of kinds of engagement work reside.

**2014 TNLC Call to Action**

* The lack of common vocabulary was discussed. Providing a common conceptual framework would help to strengthen TN dialogue and exchange activities, and planning activities also.
* How to relate engagement to student performance? Students want their engagement work to be formally recognized.
* TN has an important opportunity to make a powerful statement about the role of universities beyond their internal focus, to assert their responsibility to educate global citizens.
* It was recommended that the Network follow up on this discussion by collecting and sharing best practices on the topics raised, learning from the programs, comparing and contrasting. This process of information gathering and dissemination can feed into a conceptual vocabulary project.
* It was observed that the Call to Action focuses primarily on student activities and outcomes. Some members urged that we pay additional attention to institutional policies and practices as part of university engagement work. Examples: policies and practices with respect to procurement, energy consumption, investment. Opinions on this point were mixed.
* Several SC members urged that TN develop a 5-year strategic plan. It was agreed that we aim to move from the general statement of priorities in the conference Call to Action to a more specific plan.

**Steps to Influence Global Rankings**

TN Chair and Vice-Chair meetings with Times Higher Education

* Cheryl de la Rey and Anthony and Cheryl’s opinion piece on global rankings in the THE is a good step in challenging the higher education rankings.
* It was agreed that we should follow up with THE on items that they have not yet implemented: adding 2-3 questions about university civic engagement to their annual survey, and increasing coverage of university civic engagement. Members advocated that we recommend three things to THE: new questions to include in the reputational annual survey, new questions to include in the questionnaire that is completed by universities, and new individuals to include as respondents to the reputational survey (purpose of each of these steps is to elevate attention to engagement).
* Agreed to next approach the global ranking operation QS, with the same agenda as our interaction with THE.

**Proposed Initiative to Establish a Global Community Engagement Classification**

* Lorraine McIlrath gave a brief presentation on the Ireland pilot of the Carnegie Community Engagement Classification. The pilot study will change some vocabulary to be more applicable to Ireland.
* The group supported continuing exploration by TN of developing a global community engagement classification. Significant funding would be required.

**Kettering Foundation – TN Collaboration**

* Kettering Program Officer, Derek Barker presented about TN-Kettering collaboration to date and future plans.
* Future work will be on dialogue and deliberative democracy, and include holding a joint workshop on deliberative practices.

**TNLC 2017 Site Selection**

* The group made observations, and raised questions, about the pros and cons of the proposals received to host the next TN global conference. Discussion addressed:
  + Access to location, visa requirements, cultural values, university commitment, Global North versus Global South, and prospective overall learning experience for attendees
  + Costs – gross costs, hotel, and flight costs
* The group agreed upon two finalist host institutions and locations and specified additional information to be gathered, and issues to be addressed, with each.
* A full report on both finalists will be prepared to inform the SC’s selection of the site at its meeting in January.

**Strengthening Faculty Incentives**

* Lorlene Hoyt and Amy Newcomb Rowe presented on the Pilot Faculty Survey about incentives for faculty members’ community-engaged teaching, research and service.
* The Steering Committee and student representatives made several suggestions about next steps with this project. They felt that preparation of a few case studies would be more valuable than would a more extensive survey.

**Youth Economic Participation Initiative**

* Jennifer Catalano gave a presentation on YEPI implementation to date.
* YEPI partners are learning from each other and with the project Learning Partner, team from University of Minnesota.
* Factors that contribute to success: supportive government policies, internal structure, access to financial resources, participation by local allies, internal and external champions.
* Next year: will be harvesting knowledge from the 8 YEPI sites from in-person exchanges, 2nd year learning report, and Learning Partner.
* Maryam Mohiuddin and Saad Idrees presented about the YEPI project that they direct at Lahore University of Management Sciences, Social Innovation Lab.

**Next Stage Collaboration with MasterCard Foundation**

* MCF is a powerful partner committed to continuing to work with TN.
* MCF advocates that next stage of work with TN focus on transition to work and on education of transformative leaders.
* It was noted that there have been extensive efforts in African countries to address the transition to work challenge. TN should avoid duplicating these efforts.
* A key recommendation: That we concentrate on TN’s distinctive strength in university civic engagement – how engagement activities can strengthen transition to work and education of transformative leaders.

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**Talloires Network Communications Strategy**

* Matías Ramos presented on TN’s communication strategy: key messages, TN brand building (or not), framing and language of communications, and target audiences.
* Recommendations from SC members and student representatives included: Our language should be more active, less passive. And edgy, “higher education is uniquely poised…” TN should communicate forcefully that civic engagement is a mainstream and essential function of institutions of higher education; be more authoritative about message.

**Secretariat Leadership Transition**

* Conversation focused on how to secure stable financial foundation, including salary of new Executive Director when Rob Hollister retires.
* It was suggested and agreed that TN explore instituting a membership fee. The secretariat was asked to study the policies and approaches of other associations on this topic, and to develop options for consideration by the SC.
* Members urged that any membership fee be structured so that less resourced institutions are not excluded (potential approaches: sliding scale of dues, need-based financial assistance, waivers, or a tiered membership system).

**Fundraising Needs, Opportunities and Priorities**

* The group suggested additional foundation prospects, including governmental sources and development assistance agencies.
* Our priority is to follow through with current fundraising interactions and best prospects. A primary need is funds for operating support. Many funders have strong interest in TN but won’t provide operating support, so our challenge is to build funds for core operations into project grants. We aim to “not chase money for activities that are off target” in terms of TN’s missions.
* Important to add TNLC2017 to the list of fundraising needs.

**Wrap up**

* Tony thanked everyone and looks forward to January 2016 meeting by conference call.

**10th anniversary luncheon**

* Immediately following the SC meeting, attendees participated in a buffet luncheon celebrating TN’s 10th anniversary.
* Remarks by Tony Monaco; Jonathan Tisch; Cheryl de la Rey; three leading partners – Reeta Roy, MasterCard Foundation; David Mathews, Kettering Foundation, and Eduardo Garrido, Santander Universities; and Rob Hollister.
* Attendance and networking – representatives of foundations, academic institutions, international development organizations, SC, student representatives and secretariat staff.

**Next steps**

TN secretariat

* Rob Hollister will write Irish university heads encouraging them to participate in Irish community classification pilot.
* Draft strategic plan. Prepare draft outline for consideration at January SC meeting.
* Gather information from, and negotiate with, finalists to host 2017 conference; prepare recommendations for consideration at January SC meeting.
* Develop options with respect to proposed dues structure.
* Prepare recommendations to THE about rankings reputational survey questions, institutional questionnaire questions, and identity of respondents to reputational surveys.
* Arrange for Chair and Vice-Chair to meet with QS leadership.
* Further explore development of a global classification system; scope out potential interest of funders in such an initiative.
* As resources permit, prepare case studies of how universities incentivize and reward faculty for engagement work.
* Frame TN communications with a clear and firm message – university civic engagement is a mandate, university civic engagement and social responsibility are an obligation.
* Recommend conceptual vocabulary (In this process, use currently available frameworks).

SC members

* Identify a communications staff person at their institution to be liaison with TN.
* Continue to function as ambassadors, mention TN in their communication activities. They may ask assistance from the secretariat in preparing talks, opinion pieces, etc.
* Fundraising – Suggest fundraising opportunities; on request, contribute to fundraising activities.