

Global Priorities Committee:
Annual Report to the Academic Council, 2025-2026
Krishna Udayakumar, Chair

Introduction

The Global Priorities Committee (GPC) is an advisory body to the Provost that was re-activated during the 2024-2025 academic year after being dormant since 2022. 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 ongoing performance.

Organization and Meeting Cadence

The membership of the GPC comprises 10-15 faculty members, including one member of the Executive Committee of the Academic Council and one or two from the broader membership of the Academic Council. The GPC Chair is a member of the faculty. Other administrators serve as ex officio members. The term is three years with the possibility of reappointment. Committee membership is provided in **Appendix One**.

The Committee meets monthly, for a total of approximately nine meetings per academic year.

GPC Activities During the 2025-2026 Academic Year

Global Strategy Report

Building upon work from the prior academic year, including engagement of the Board of Trustees, senior leadership, and faculty, the GPC and Office of the Provost finalized and released a global strategy report in October 2025. The Provost sent a [message](#) to the Duke community on October 24, 2025, sharing the [global strategy report](#) and welcoming feedback. GPC leadership held two town hall meetings, attended by over 100 members of the Duke community, and the Provost and Chair of GPC presented the global strategy report to the full Academic Council in January 2026.

The GPC has continued to engage on the topic of global priorities across the academic year, including discussion of feedback from Duke faculty, staff, and students. This feedback has guided ongoing refinement of global priorities, strengthened emphasis on the value of humanities, arts, and interpretive social sciences in Duke's global engagement, and aided the prioritization of institutional collaborations and internal funding opportunities. Refined language regarding the strategy for global engagement and strategic priorities will be reflected on the Duke Global website and in future communications internally and externally.

Administrative Subcommittee

An Administrative Subcommittee of GPC, co-led by Krishna Udayakumar and David Bowersox, was formed at the end of the prior academic year to analyze current structures, staffing, and governance of administrative support for global activities across Duke; and to provide detailed recommendations for future structure, governance, and capabilities. This subcommittee, supported by an operational working group, undertook its work over the summer and provided analysis and recommendations for GPC discussion and feedback during this academic year. The recommendations of the GPC in turn informed the development of Duke Global, Duke's new organizational model to support global strategy, partnerships, innovation, and global program support. The Provost [announced](#) this organizational change along with a new senior leadership team for Duke Global in December 2025. The Administrative Subcommittee subsequently disbanded, having completed its mandate.

Priorities for Internal Funding

The GPC held multiple discussions to better understand and provide recommendations regarding priorities for internal funding via Duke Global to support global engagement across Duke. The GPC reviewed background information on historical internal funding commitments as well as restrictions for various internal funding sources. Based on GPC feedback, Duke Global will be launching open and competitive funding opportunities for students, faculty, and staff over the coming months. GPC members will serve on review panels for these various requests for proposals, strengthening alignment with strategic priorities and ensuring strong faculty input into funding decisions.

Enterprise Risk Perspective

One of the areas identified as a priority to address in the strategy report was Duke's approach to risk assessment and management for global activities. The GPC engaged with Leigh Goller, Chief Audit, Risk, and Compliance Officer for Duke University, to address this area. GPC members participated in a survey regarding international risk priorities, which informed a follow-up discussion with Goller regarding high-priority international risk priorities and appropriate and balanced risk mitigation and management approaches. GPC members' input will in turn inform future work on development and/or adaptation of relevant policies, procedures, decision criteria and frameworks for global engagement and activities. The GPC will remain actively engaged on this topic.

Regional and Institutional Engagement and Collaboration Opportunities

Over the course of the academic year, the GPC also discussed specific regional and institutional engagement and collaboration opportunities. These included:

1. Priorities for an existing institutional collaboration with the University of Exeter, UK; the GPC provided recommendations for broader global engagement, including tapping into Global South networks across Duke and Exeter, to drive future engagement and co-investment with the University of Exeter; and also identified collaborations in humanities as a priority area, in addition to exploring further collaborations in climate and health.
2. Engagement interests and opportunities in regions of the Middle East: across the academic year the GPC was updated on faculty interests as well as engagement opportunities in the Middle East, including Qatar and Saudi Arabia. The GPC also deliberated on the recent military conflict in the Middle East and potential implications for Duke activities in the region as well as the personal impact for affected Duke faculty, staff, and students.

The GPC looks forward to ongoing, regular engagement with the Academic Council to inform its future work and topics for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Krishna Udayakumar, Chair, Global Priorities Committee

Appendix One

Members of the Global Priorities Committee 2025-2026

Term: three years (with possibility of reappointment)

Term Ending August 31, 2027

- Alex Belloni, Fuqua School of Business
- Fred Boadu, Pratt School of Engineering
- Jiaoti Huang, School of Medicine
- Jayne Huckerby, School of Law
- Tsitsi Jaji, English, Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
- Anirudh Krishna, Sanford School of Public Policy
- Divine Kumah, Physics, Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
- Timur Kuran, Islamic Studies, Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
- Eddy Malesky, Political Science, Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
- Eleanor Stevenson, School of Nursing
- Erika Weinthal, Nicholas School of the Environment

Term Ending August 31, 2028

- Michaeline Crichlow, African and African American Studies, Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
- Adrian Hernandez, Duke Clinical Research Institute
- Engseng Ho, Cultural Anthropology, Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
- Cecilia Marquez, History, Trinity College of Arts & Sciences
- Mallory SoRelle, Sanford School of Public Policy
- Krishna Udayakumar (Chair), Duke Global Health Institute
- Daniel Xu, Economics, Trinity College of Arts & Sciences

Ex Officio

- Lee Baker, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
- Chris Beyrer, Director of the Duke Global Health Institute
- David Bowersox, Vice Provost for Finance and Administration
- Ed Buckley, Vice President for Duke-NUS Affairs
- Valerie Hausman, Associate Vice Provost, Global Administration
- Amanda Kelso, Associate Vice Provost, Undergraduate Education
- Mark Anthony Neal, Chair, Academic Council
- Noah Pickus, Head of Global Strategy and Partnerships
- Joseph Salem, University Librarian and Vice Provost for Library Affairs
- Toddi Steelman, Vice President and Vice Provost for Climate and Sustainability
- Samira Wellemeyer, Director, Office of Duke-NUS Affairs