

Candidate Questionnaire Form: 2022-2024 Election

Name: Mariët Westermann

Title: Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive of New York University Abu Dhabi

Company: NYU Abu Dhabi

Citizenship: United States

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1. How many years have you lived in the U.A.E.?

Six years in Abu Dhabi:

From 2007 to 2010 to lead the start up effort for NYU Abu Dhabi;

Again, since 2019 when I returned to become Vice Chancellor of NYU Abu Dhabi.

2. How many years have you been a member of AmCham Abu Dhabi? Please specify if you are an Individual, Corporate or Platinum member.

- 2009 – 2011: Corporate Member
- 2015 – 2016: Corporate Member
- 2017 – 2018: Platinum Member
- 2019 – Current: Corporate Member

3. In what ways have you been an active member?

- NYUAD has contributed in all of these categories, and I have always been a great supporter of AmCham Abu Dhabi.

	Volunteered at events
✓	Contributed as a Guest Speaker/Presenter at events
✓	Attended 3 or more AmCham Abu Dhabi events
✓	Sponsored events or publications

✓	Participated in Advocacy Week
✓	Participated in AmCham Committees (Please list below)
✓	Facilitator/Scribe for Roundtable Summit
	Other (Please list below)

4. Which committees are you interested in participating as an active member?

✓	Arts, Culture & Education
	Finance

	Membership
	Programs and Events

	Industry Committee (Please circle below)
	Human Resources
	Legal Affairs

	Roundtable Summit
	U.S. – U.A.E. Public Affairs
	Business Leadership Alliance

* Defense, Aerospace & Security * SMEs* Energy & Renewables* COP28/Climate* Healthcare* Digital/Tech*

5. Do you currently serve on the board of any company, business group or association? Please list below.

Board service has long been integral to my participation in the communities where my family and I live. Current service:

- Board member, ALIPH - The International Alliance for the Protection of Heritage in Conflict Areas, a major initiative led by the UAE and France
- Trustee, Educational Testing Service
- Member of the Supervisory Board, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam
- Chair, Scholar Rescue Fund of the Institute of International Education

6. List any experience or association you have with other boards, voluntary positions, or non-profit organizations.

In Abu Dhabi I serve as a member of the recently constituted Abu Dhabi Residents Majlis, an initiative of the Abu Dhabi Residents Office to improve the experiences of residents in critical areas like visas, housing, schools, healthcare, and leisure opportunities. Members lead significant businesses and cultural enterprises in Abu Dhabi.

I also represent NYU Abu Dhabi on the US-UAE Business Council.

In my previous role as Executive Vice President at the Mellon Foundation, I attended all quarterly board meetings and finance and investment committee meetings. I oversaw the Foundation's annual grantmaking and research portfolio of more than \$300 million, revised the Foundation's grantmaking strategy and international position. I launched initiatives that promote higher education, the humanities and the arts, strengthen liberal arts curricula and graduate education, reinforce community colleges, renew preservation of cultural heritage, and support scholars and artists at risk.

My previous experience on the boards of nonprofit organizations also includes:

- Trustee, Little Red Schoolhouse and Elisabeth Irwin High School, New York
- Trustee, MASS MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts
- Trustee, Institute of International Education

7. If you are elected to the 2022-2024 Board of Directors, how will you contribute to the overall growth and success of AmCham Abu Dhabi?

NYUAD is an anchor institution for Abu Dhabi and the United Arab Emirates, and it is also an integral part of NYU, the largest and most global university in the world. I thus lead an institution that is American, local and global at the same time, just as AmCham is.

Institutionally and personally, I am deeply integrated into UAE society and culture, and can help further AmCham's already strong connections with academic and cultural organizations across sectors. Our research enterprise has made a significant [impact in the country](#). I'm eager to connect our scholarly pursuits and our public and community programs with AmCham members, and thereby support the economic, cultural, and societal development of the UAE, and the success of AmCham itself.

In my work in higher education and philanthropy, I have championed and developed major initiatives to promote the values of diversity, inclusion, and equity. I am eager to help AmCham ensure that our membership is fully representative of the richly diverse, cosmopolitan American and expatriate community of the UAE, and that this community is well tied into Emirati society and its institutions.

8. What specific ideas do you have for AmCham Abu Dhabi to further its mission in the next year? How will you help implement and deliver results?

I look forward to learning more about AmCham's current priorities and initiatives, so my ideas are still provisional. But here are a few of my ideas for areas where I can uniquely contribute to AmCham's work:

- Ensure that events with major speakers across all sectors of interest who come to my university and other academic and cultural organizations are available to AmCham members.
- Represent the views and priorities of the AmCham board in the Abu Dhabi Residents Majlis on which I serve (see above), in relation to vital expatriate concerns such as visas, housing, healthcare, schools, and leisure.
- Share experience and knowledge related to COVID-19 at this new stage of the pandemic, where our expertise is deep through our direct participation in the national response and management of a complex residential and academic community and campus.
- Provide connections to scholars and researchers in areas of particular expertise that is of interest to the AmCham Board and membership.

9. Are you willing to attend committee meetings during work hours or volunteer on weekends for events?

Absolutely. When useful and appropriate to the topics at hand, I will also occasionally entrust other members of my NYUAD senior leadership team to represent me, to ensure AmCham has access to a diverse range of talent.

10. What is your overall message to the AmCham membership?

AmCham does an excellent job connecting American organizations to entities here on the ground, to each other, and to the knowledge we all need to flourish. Higher education in the US has long been one of the most effective knowledge producers in the world, and it is also one of America's most beloved exports. I believe AmCham will benefit from the representation on its Board of a distinguished American university that is in and of the UAE.

Through our work with AmCham, I look forward to creating further opportunities to bring the best of US education to this country and to you, and to make our offerings better known to the AmCham community. I also look forward to sharing what we have learned as a large employer of global and local talent. Our people thrive here, and it will be a joy to contribute insight and ideas about the policies and facilities that help them succeed.

Our university is porous to the UAE community. It is not an ivory tower – indeed most universities aren't – but more of a souk of ideas. We welcome AmCham members to experience the life of our university on our beautiful Saadiyat campus. Conversely, I anticipate that our closer ties to AmCham will further enrich NYU Abu Dhabi's role in this dynamic crossroads country.