

NYU Tel Aviv Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 10:00am
383 Lafayette Street 4th Floor Conference Room (Room 438)

Attendees (*Denotes joined remotely)

- Ronald Zweig (Chair, FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Benjamin Hary (NYU Tel Aviv Site Director and FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Mark Siegal (FAS – Biology)
- Pance Naumov* (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Philip Kennedy* (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Marianne Petit (Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Network Academic Planning)
- Patrick McCreery (Gallatin)
- Linda Mills (Vice Chancellor, Global Programs and University Life)
- Tyra Liebmann (Associate Vice President, Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Vice President, Global Programs)
- Jaci Czarnecki Thompson (Student Services, Global Programs)
- Maria Christodoulou (Academics, Global Programs)

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the global network continues to evolve and play an increasingly significant role in contributing to NYU's academic mission, and in response to suggestions from two key faculty committees, the University created new part-time faculty leadership roles related to global academic and faculty planning and conducted open searches to fill them. Coming out of that process, senior faculty members from five schools (i.e., Arts and Science, Global Public Health, Medicine, Shanghai, and Tisch) have taken on new roles over the past year:

- Associate Vice Chancellors for Global Network Academic Planning: Professor [Olugbenga \("Gbenga"\) Ogedegbe](#) (School of Medicine and College of Global Public Health) and Professor [Marianne Petit](#) (Tisch School of the Arts and NYU Shanghai)
- Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Network Faculty Planning: Professor [Zvi Ben-Dor Benite](#) (Faculty of Arts and Science)
- Senior Academic Convenor for the Global Network: Professor [Eliot Borenstein](#) (Faculty of Arts and Science)

Faculty members should feel free to reach out to Gbenga, Marianne, Zvi, or Eliot with comments or questions about the global network at any time.

Site Director Report

Benjamin Hary, Site Director at NYU Tel Aviv, reviewed the Site Director Report, which was distributed to the committee in advance of the meeting. He also shared a Powerpoint presentation to showcase some of the events and activities that occurred. Dr. Hary noted a few highlights during the meeting:

- Academic Curriculum: the site director reported that he along with Edan Raviv, Assistant Director of Academics have undertaken a review of the curriculum, including a review of the lecturers through peer reviewed class visits, lecturer self-evaluations, course evaluation results, and a review of course syllabi. The goal is to strengthen the site's four areas of specialization, Science, Business and Innovation, Social Sciences, and Middle East (Hebrew and Judaic Studies and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies). The site director also mentioned the site is planning a summer faculty workshop to discuss the site's efforts to enhance academic rigor and create a more balanced learning experience for students.
- Local Engagement: the site director described various activities and events that the site has been coordinating in an effort to promote local engagement. The site director showed a video of students observing the Imam's call for prayer in a Mosque in Nazareth as an example of an activity focused on local immersion. Other activities included participation in the Tel Aviv Marathon, academic meetups with Shenkar College students, and the ILANIT science conference in Eilat. The site is working on expanding residential life activities and developing and implementing other ideas for local and cultural immersion. The site is also planning on offering homestays for students learning Arabic to help increase exposure to Israeli diversity and language study.
- Diversity and Inclusion: the site has been working on efforts to ensure students have a balanced and multidimensional experience while studying away. Some of these new efforts include:
 - A dedicated workshop in orientation week on respecting classroom diversity.
 - A fully operational kosher/Halal kitchen and additional accommodations for vegan and gluten-free students.
 - The creation of "breathing rooms" – safe spaces for meditation and prayer.
 - The redesign of History of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict to be co-taught by one Jewish and one Arab lecturer to provide students in the course with different perspectives of events.
- Affordability: The site is in the process of making various changes to support the University's affordability efforts including:
 - Developing funding opportunities, such as the Innovation Scholars Program
 - Scheduling co-curricular activities out of class time to ensure that all students are offered the opportunity to participate
 - Providing students (in the shared kitchen) with basic ingredients, cleaning supplies, appliances, cooking and exercise lessons
 - Offering a discounted meal plan option in B'nei Dan
 - Introducing subsidies for local cultural activities and events
 - Assisting students in purchasing used bikes to lower transportation cost

Program Evaluations

The site director noted that NYU Tel Aviv received overall good ratings on the program evaluations for Fall 2016 and the site will continue to review the results and student feedback to improve the site's offerings, activities and operations.

Other Items Discussed

- CAS Summer in Tel Aviv program was cancelled as the program did not receive enough applications. The program will be attempted again next summer.
- The committee began discussions on ways to leverage the scholarship program to be able to offer J-term and summer courses under different model than the CAS summer programs.
- Patrick McCreery was invited to join the NYUTA SSAC and the group engaged in discussion about how Gallatin could be more involved with the site, perhaps through the Innovation Scholars Program.
- The group discussed how to increase faculty engagement in NYU's global network and how to raise awareness of NYU Tel Aviv at the Washington Square Campus. Ron Zweig proposed inviting Imam Latif to visit the site to see everything the site is doing to be more inclusive of Muslim students in hopes he could actively promote the site within the community.
- The site director gave an update on the progress of the relocation. There has been a delay in obtaining all the necessary documents and permits, however, things are moving along with a goal to move in the fall.
- The site director mentioned the 10-year anniversary of the site will be coming up next year and the committee should begin thinking about planning a special event to celebrate.

Next Steps

- Further explore offering J-term and summer courses and other specialized programs.
- Begin planning 10-year event celebration.