

NYU Paris Advisory Committee Meeting Annotated Agenda

Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 9:00-10:15pm

PCR (Bobst 1218)

Attendees

- Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt – Media, Culture, and Communication) - Chair
- Benoit Bolduc (NYU Paris, Site Director)
- Deborah Landau (Creative Writing)
- Alec Marantz (Linguistics)
- Ronald Sadoff (Steinhardt - Music and Performing Arts Professions)
- Lisa Goldfarb (Gallatin)
- Momette Broderick (Art History)
- Stephane Gerson (History/Institute of French Studies)
- Eliot Borenstein (Senior Convenor)
- Afrodesia McCannon (Liberal Studies)
- David Velleman (Philosophy)
- Judy Miller (NYUAD)
- Sofiane Bouarroudj (NYUAD)*
- Almaz Zelleke (NYUSH)
- Angela Zito (Anthropology)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Peter Holm (Global Programs)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Libby Perkowski (Global Programs)

Introductions & Announcements

Aurora Wallace opened the meeting with an introduction of committee members.

Linda Mills thanked the committee for their work and dedication to curricular development at the global sites, and welcomed feedback on the “Updates on Study Away and Academic Developments at the Global Sites” memo that was emailed to faculty on March 8th. The Committee discussed the challenges and opportunities of student circulation to the global sites as well as New York, Abu Dhabi and Shanghai. While it is important that student mobility be grounded in academic needs, this model often leads to fluctuations in enrollment that can make it difficult to plan effectively and maximize resources. President Hamilton is beginning discussions with schools to see how we can facilitate students’ ability to study abroad and close the gap between the percentage of students who come to NYU hoping to study away and the percentage of students who actually study away during their time at NYU. We are hoping to

develop a new way to plan for this increased student circulation that makes sense for students academically as well as allowing for the efficient use of resources.

Eliot Borenstein invited committee members to participate in “[Global Conversations](#),” a program of faculty discussions and workshops around important topics related to study away and NYU’s 11 global sites. The day’s events are designed to create opportunities for faculty to discuss the place and role(s) of study away in an NYU undergraduate education; learn about a range of current global study initiatives, innovations, and challenges; and open up new avenues for creative thinking and cross-disciplinary collaboration in academic programming at the 11 global sites. The New York events will take place on Monday, April 9, with additional events taking place in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai at a later date. Eliot encouraged all members to attend and to invite their faculty colleagues to attend, as well.

Linda Mills and the committee applauded Benoit Bolduc for his outstanding work and the results he achieved during his three-year tenure at NYU Paris. His efforts and collaboration with New York have yielded pathways in Music and Computer Science, bringing new student cohorts to Paris; the new French immersion program is an exciting new opportunity for students of French to focus their studies and differentiate their experience in Paris. Benoit in turn thanked the committee for their support and efforts contributing to this transformation.

Site Director Report

Curricular Updates

- In close consultation with the French Department, the Program I and Program II tracks at NYU Paris have been phased out to allow students more flexibility in course selection. For those focusing on French language study, the new French immersion track will be a signature immersion program for a small student group.
- The new CORE program supported by Momette Broderick has been very successful and has afforded students incredible experiences; for example, this spring the class visited the cupola at the top of the Pantheon, which is normally closed to the public.
- Computer Science is beginning a new pathway that is expected to have a strong cohort in its first semester in the fall. Russel Cafilisch (Dean, Courant Institute) has made developing computer science and math pathways in Paris a priority; the Math pathway will begin Spring 2019.
- Steinhardt Music has 26 students in Paris this semester, adding vibrancy to the community, both at the academic center and at FEU (a residence at Cite Universitaire).
- Steinhardt MCC is beginning an external transfer program in Paris in fall 2018, a program that has also begun to attract transfers from within NYU.
- In general there seems to be more diversity in humanities classes, which has enriched class discussions.

Course Clustering

NYU Paris continues to be open to developing new ways to think about site identity. Traditionally, NYU Paris has had a strong identity in the humanities and social sciences, but the addition of Music and Computer Science may provide new opportunities for clustering courses that span disciplines; for example, some members suggested a Math/Computer Science and Urban Infrastructure/Engineering cluster. Gallatin could be particularly helpful in thinking about the curriculum in this way.

Student Life

- Martina Faltova has joined the NYU Paris team as assistant director for student life and has brought enthusiasm and expertise to the program. Martina has been working closely with student clubs and global ambassadors to facilitate student-driven activities. Students are taking more initiative in organizing and advertising events and, as a result, there is a greater sense of community among students and event attendance has increased.
- Benoit encouraged everyone to look at NYU Paris's intranet, where they post important information (contacts, academic dates, advisor schedules, etc.), as well as activity updates. The intranet is smartphone friendly, and the site also utilizes social media and a weekly newsletter to communicate this information to students.
- The site has introduced strong academic components to the trips it organizes for students. The trips are now all led by faculty and are preceded by a mandatory lecture before departure. This has not only increased faculty engagement with students and the site but has also resulted in more enriching academic experiences.
- Cite Universitaire Residence Halls: The residence hall options at Cite Universitaire offer many opportunities for NYU students to mix with French and other international students, including through the shared kitchens. In addition, each residence hall organizes many activities for students.
 - Maison d'île de France (MDIF) is a new building at Cite Universitaire. There were some mixed reviews in the beginning as construction was being finalized but students now enjoy the building.
 - NYU is in discussions with Fondation des Etats-Unis (FEU) regarding a longer term housing arrangement. FEU has been popular as a lower-cost housing option in Paris.

Program evaluations

Benoit noted that the program evaluations for NYU Paris have been high and are mostly holding steady from semester to semester. There was a slight decrease in the reported number of non-mandatory events students attended so the site will be looking into different ways to encourage participation. For example, Benoit has advised site lecturers that an essay written in response to an event could award extra credit.

The site has also learned that managing expectations is key to avoiding surprises. The information on NYU Paris' housing page is very transparent, which has helped to increase student satisfaction with housing assignments.

Data packet

Janet Alperstein went through the data packet and noted an increase in juniors and French majors/minors enrolling at NYU Paris. Janet also offered to meet with faculty and departments individually to discuss their course offerings and options for their majors.

After the meeting, Committee Members received a one-page document that noted all changes to the curriculum for the 2018-2019 academic year for their review. They may feel free to reach out to Janet Alperstein if they have any questions.

Next Steps

The Committee will continue to explore opportunities for clustering, both to encourage and facilitate creative and interdisciplinary academic planning for students and to further define the site's identity.