

NYU Washington, D.C., Site Specific Advisory Committee

Meeting of Thursday, November 8, 2018

President's Conference Room, Bobst 1218

Present: Janet Alperstein (Global Programs), Peter Diamond (Liberal Studies), Patrick Egan (Committee Chair; FAS - Politics), David Kanter (FAS - Environmental Studies), Victoria Kiechel (NYU, Washington DC), Tyra Liebermann (Global Programs), Nancy Morrison (Global Programs), Maura Pollard (Global Programs), Charles Seife (FAS - Journalism), Michael Ulrich (Site Director, NYU Washington DC), Michael Williams (FAS - International Relations), Almaz Zelleke (NYU Shanghai)

Absent: Julie Anne Avina (College of Global Public Health), Kerry Barrett (NYU Abu Dhabi), Christian Haefke (NYU Abu Dhabi), Maria Montoya (FAS - History), Timothy Naftali (Wagner); Gbenga Ogedegbe (Global Programs), Adam Ramey (NYU Abu Dhabi), Matthew Santirocco (Faculty Director, NYU Washington, DC)

1. Committee Members

- David Kanter (FAS - Environmental Studies) replaces Jessica Green
- Timothy Naftali (Wagner) replaces Tony Bertelli
- Matthew Santirocco could not be at today's meeting because of a family health emergency.

2. Spring 2018 Site Director Update

Michael Ulrich reported on developments in curriculum, enrollment, University priorities, student activities, and faculty hiring at NYU DC. Some highlights:

Graduate Student Programs

- Graduate Student Programs are an emerging interest for us in DC. We've always had the Global Research Initiative, but now we have the Stern Executive MBA Program. The first Stern cohort of 50 students successfully started this fall. An initial survey of students indicates a score of 4.7 (out of 5) satisfaction with the program.
 - Undergraduates don't seem to be affected adversely by the graduate student presence. We are exploring ways to connect the new grad student cohort with the other cohorts at the site.
 - Our trustee Ronald Abramson helped kick off the first semester for Stern.
- We are planning for a new International Relations Master's Program in DC.
 - In the past, IR offered courses in the summer in DC. But since it was difficult for students with housing in NYC to relocate to DC for only three months, the program will now be structured to have the first year in NYC and the second in DC.
 - We already had faculty who commuted between NYC and DC to teach IR courses: they are happy that they now do not have to travel as much.

- Michael Williams and Matthew Santirocco have spoken about the possibility of starting an IR Executive Program alongside the regular Master's program.

Staffing

- A new Assistant Director for Academic Affairs. Fatemeh Housseini, joined the staff in fall 2018, after working at Georgetown University. She replaces Kerstin Sorensen who resigned last summer.
- Gaby Grebski is our new Wellness Counselor, having joined us last spring.
- We have faculty searches underway for positions in the spring. Ron Christie will be participating in an ABC documentary so he won't be teaching in spring 2019.
- The Academic Writing Specialist is overseeing two writing fellows who will offer peer-tutoring support.

University Priorities

Local Engagement

- This fall we will have a record number of guest visits and public events. Students really appreciate these occasions as opportunities for networking and learning about resources in DC.
- Our local alumni network is very active and continues to connect with students for informational interviews.
- Students also have partnerships with local organizations. We established a ServiceCorps for students to pursue volunteer opportunities, and are working with Martha's Table and SMYAL, an organization for LGBTQ youth.
- A first-year student organized a public event on "A Brief History of Time," which was a success. Many residents from a nearby retirement community attended.
- We are taking the lead to organize networking events among other schools that have semester in DC programs, and have proposed initiatives, including workshops, conferences, and community service activities, that could bring this population together.
- It is harder to collaborate with local four-year institutions, but we still look for opportunities to engage with our neighbor schools.

Inclusion, Diversity, Belonging, and Equity

- Our new Global Equity Fellow has done a great job so far: organizing local trips, planning a dialogue on Identity, and compiling an Intersectionality Guide for future use.
- The new [StoryCorps](#) website showcases NYU DC students and their experiences.

Sustainability

- Students have formed the NYU DC Green Club
- Our building is LEED Gold Certified and we have a good relationship with the DC Department of Energy and Environment
- We are exploring ways to add components to the curriculum that speak to sustainability.

Affordability

- New scholarship support from Ronald Abramson and Nina Weissberg for the Global Leadership Program.
 - 17 students from NYC and Shanghai received extra support from these scholarship funds. We were able to bring more financially needy students to DC thanks to these gifts.
- We hired four NYU undergraduates as Residential Life Administrators to support our summer operations. This helped these students to offset the cost of their summer internship experiences.

Global Leadership Program

- The word “Scholars” was dropped from the program’s title since some students in a focus group noted that they didn’t apply to the program because they thought it was only for Honors students.
- A total of 27 Leadership students are enrolled for fall 2018 (12 SH and 15 NY). Global is projecting an increase to 31 Leadership students for spring 2019 (7 SH, 14 NY and 10 AD).

Student Activities

- Our Director’s Award program tracks students’ engagement. For fall 2018, 58% of eligible students are on track to earn an Award.
- We had an event on the National Mall to connect with students from other DC programs.

Public Events

- Tom McIntyre continues to do a great job in bringing notable speakers to the site. This fall we’ve had artists, writers, musicians, journalists, activists, and politicians visit. There is a good representation of different viewpoints and political affiliations.
- NYU DC Dialogues, our special events program, presented 50 programs in the spring and summer of 2018 and over 40 in fall 2018.

J-Term

- Pat Egan will be coming back for the third time to do a J-Term course on Politics and Policy. We have over 50 applications for this course so far.

3. Data and Course Evaluations

Janet Alperstein reminded committee members that she is always happy to visit schools or departments to present this information in more detail.

Enrollment and Pathways

- We seem to be at an all-time low for students coming from CAS.
 - This may be related to the current political administration, which may make DC less attractive to certain students. But CAS students are down in the Global Network across all sites for fall 2018 (even in London).

- We have been speaking about “clustering” for the past few years.
 - Established pathways do not apply to all students.
 - Some students may need help conceptualizing what a “non-pathway” could look like. Some examples could be: Global Life and Immigration; Arts and Culture; Teaching and Learning.
 - Steinhardt faculty mentioned that a “Teaching and Learning” pathway wouldn’t attract their students just because “teaching” was in the title. We have to be mindful of the nomenclature and description of any proposed pathways.
- Attached to these notes is a list of minors available to students.
- Should we reach out to OGS and other offices that support international students to promote DC?

Course Evaluations

- Eighteen of the spring 2018 courses were evaluated above 4.0.
- One course that was consistently evaluated below 4.0, improved thanks to Pat’s mentorship of the lecturer.
- One of the lower evaluated course (“Principles of Financial Accounting”) has been removed from our curriculum and replaced with a new course (“Financial Statement Analysis”) and a new lecturer. Colleagues at NYU Shanghai recommended this new course as a better fit for their students.

4. Spring 2018 Program Evaluations

- The spring 2018 program evaluations are among our best to-date.
- NYU DC students (both LS and other) rate the site well on challenging courses, extracurricular events and lectures, diversity, and self-awareness.
- We had the best evaluations for spring LS students to-date.
- We continue to tweak the “Meaning of Leadership” Seminar.
 - Final spring 2018 course and instructor evaluations were very strong (4.2 and 4.6). The fall 2018 midterm course evaluations were less strong.
 - Students like case studies so we are trying to incorporate more of these.
- Next semester we will have a speaker from the Library of Congress. We would like to develop more course-based research projects.
- “Explore DC Adore DC” is an elective course just for LS students which started this semester. The class encourages engagement with DC resources through visits to embassies, museums, think tanks, and performances.
- Michael and Matthew Santirocco continue to collaborate closely and productively on academics for the site.

5. Recruitment

- We sent out an email blast to advisors at the beginning of semester. Over 40 advisors publicized our info session to their students.
- We have asked the Washington Consortium to share data with us confidentially so that we can see if other schools have also seen changes in student numbers. Is any change due to the current political climate or to other factors?

- We should promote NYU DC as a site that's easier to navigate and has a great sense of community.
 - Focus on Shanghai: it is similar to DC in terms of community and physical space, and size of classes.
- Having Stern students mentor undergraduates could help build a business cohort.
- It may be easier to get certain internships in DC than NYC because there is less competition (e.g., in the financial sector). Also international students may be able to get internships with the embassies of their home countries.
 - NYU DC is a great option for Shanghai and AD students who want to do an internship but can't do one in NYC.
- Could we organize events around certain public gatherings (marches/rallies)? And organize thoughtful discussions afterwards, as we did following the "March for Science."
- Could undergraduates take graduate courses in the IR program? This happens already in NYC. This could be used for recruiting students into the Master's Program.
- Matthew is continuing to try to develop something in Public Policy with Wagner.
 - There is not yet a home in CAS for Public Policy at the undergraduate level.