

NYU Berlin Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting
Third Meeting: March 3, 2014 (8:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. EDT)

IN ATTENDANCE

- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- David Darts (Steinhardt)
- Tom Ertman (CAS – Sociology)
- Gabriella Etmektsoglou (Site Director – NYU Berlin)
- Alys George (CAS – German Studies)
- Karen Hornick (Gallatin)
- Kevin Kuhlke (Tisch)
- Jason King (Tisch)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost’s Office)
- Chris Schlottmann (Environmental Studies)
- Jochen Steinbicker (NYU Berlin – Sociology)
- Global Academic Team

CURRICULUM DISCUSSIONS

The committee was updated on the global curriculum discussions that have been taking place in schools and departments on the Square. At the time of the meeting, approximately 34% of schools and departments had already reviewed and approved their global curriculum; approximately 32% were taking ongoing steps to enhance their global curriculum; and approximately 34% were still reviewing their global offerings. These curriculum discussions are an important initial step in ensuring that schools and departments have a sense of ownership over their global course offerings. These conversations also ensure that global course offerings are coordinated with curriculum on the Square and are thus in line with department goals and objectives.

[Update: As of the distribution of these notes on 4/22/14, 95% of schools/departments have reviewed the history of their curricular offerings (except Paris course offerings, which are currently being assembled in anticipation of the inaugural Paris Site-Specific Advisory meeting). Global Programs has been and continues to be in discussion with several schools/departments and sites about their course offerings in the global sites. If you have questions or feedback about these reviews, please let us know, as we have carefully tracked the responses. We will now make these reviews a regular (every semester) part of a process of engaging the departments on the Square in the global curriculum they sponsor, both through the partner departments and schools on the site-specific committees and for those departments with affiliations in the global sites.]

CURRICULAR AND CROSS-CURRICULAR BRAINSTORMING

With school/department discussions wrapping up, the committee was able to take the opportunity to review the site's entire global curriculum using the course list and enrollment handout distributed at the meeting. The committee reviewed course offerings at the site, including those that are cross-listed between departments, their enrollment numbers, and major/minor data across four academic terms. The following topics and ideas emerged from this collective review:

- NYU Berlin has evolved significantly, with new departments and schools adding numerous courses since the site first launched as a spring-semester-only site in 2006. The committee offers an exciting venue to think strategically and collaboratively about the site's emerging academic identity and to explore potential for growth. Students are increasingly interested in Berlin as an exciting city with a rich history that offers unique insight into the development of both Western and Eastern Europe. Students are especially drawn to the city due to its status as a world arts capital.
- Not only are NYU students interested in Berlin, but local institutions are drawn to NYU's program as well. NYU Berlin offers something unique to local partnering institutions: an international experience in their home city. NYU Berlin can capitalize on this dynamic by leveraging the resources and expertise offered through local institutions.
- The Tisch strategic planning document was shared with the committee. It identifies existing and proposed course offerings in Berlin, along with their rationale, projected enrollments, and any special needs associated with the course. Tisch is currently developing its studio training in Berlin to mirror its structure in New York, whereby students take intensive studio training courses, but are also exposed to curricular offerings beyond Tisch. Tisch students are especially excited about opportunities in Berlin.
 - Kevin Kuhlke recently visited Berlin to meet with local arts institutions and found many organizations interested in collaboration, though finding adequate space remains a challenge. The initial logistical planning phase is underway for renting space and hiring faculty to run Tisch's program in Berlin.
 - Kevin was particularly impressed with the Schaubühne and its premiere theatrical productions, but he also noted potential for more collaboration with Ernst Busch Academy of Dramatic Arts, Universität der Künste, and others.
 - Tisch's programs are open to students from other schools by audition.
- Gabriella also highlighted an exciting development with Humboldt Universität, which partnered with NYU Berlin in 2013 to offer a course in which NYU Berlin students and Humboldt students are enrolled. More such courses are under discussion.
- The committee discussed the idea of developing Global Network "signature courses" that could be offered across several sites, and allow for cross-site collaboration. Such courses

would draw on local resources and offer something unattainable on the Square.

- Having reviewed the current site curriculum, the committee suggested pursuing coursework to cover two identified gaps: antiquity and music. With a current curriculum focused largely on the contemporary, the group discussed possible courses in ancient art, perhaps examined through a German perspective, or the history of German music.
- Sociology course offerings are currently designed to appeal both to students with a diverse range of interests and those interested in the arts. A potential new sociology course could compare and contrast German and American sociological studies; this course could potentially be oriented toward graduate students.
- College Core Curriculum (previously MAP) courses are currently not offered at NYU Berlin, which is another area for potential expansion. It was also suggested that a course on the Third Reich might be introduced.
- A group exhibition, [*Berlin Becoming*](#), was on display at NYU's Deutsches Haus from March 13 to April 18, showcasing the work of Steinhardt and other students returning from NYU Berlin. The concept of "Berlin Becoming" or Berlin in development was an idea the committee suggested pursuing to capture the local culture of Berlin in the curriculum.

"PATHWAYS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THEMES"

As schools and departments establish and develop their connections to the site via partnerships and affiliations, the committee can begin the next phase of articulating the site's academic identity: identifying "pathways, opportunities, and themes." A "pathway" is a well-developed curricular structure that is the result of a school or department's investment in the site, and that offers sufficient coursework to enable students to advance in their majors. Pathways can cross schools and departments and also be interdisciplinary. "Opportunities" are small groupings of courses that enable students to learn more about a particular field. Finally, "themes" are the overarching interdisciplinary topics or areas that are explored through the site's curriculum, and which the committee would incorporate into the site's academic narrative. The committee articulated the following in the context of developing the site's academic identity:

- Pathways are a crucial component of a site's identity and will allow students to plan their study away experience based on how well the site's curriculum meets their academic needs.
- Pathways are envisioned to provide sites with more predictable enrollments, allowing for more advanced and accurate horizon planning. It was agreed that more can be accomplished if predictable student enrollments are guaranteed in advance of course offerings.
- The following proposed Pathways emerged from discussion:
 - Sociology

- German Studies
- Drama & Dramatic Writing
- The following proposed Programs/Opportunities emerged from discussion:
 - Global Signature Courses
- The following proposed Themes emerged from discussion:
 - Berlin: A City in Development
 - Berlin: The Arts Capital

WEBSITE NARRATIVE

The current NYU Berlin homepage and academic website narratives were shared with the committee for review and discussion in the context of the themes and synergies under consideration by the committee. Gabriella suggested sharing the Google document containing the website narrative with the committee for its input.

AFFILIATE DEPARTMENTS

The committee considered how best to include affiliate schools/departments into the ongoing curriculum development discussions. The committee agreed that the next meeting could be used to bring affiliate departments and schools to the table to discuss new synergies and course development.

GLOBAL CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

At the previous meeting, the new Global Curriculum Enhancement and Faculty Development Fund (GCEFDF) was announced. This fund will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to global faculty who propose to work with faculty and departments on the Square to improve existing courses or to undertake other projects that will promote faculty development and collaboration in connection with teaching. The Office of General Counsel is working with the Site Directors and legal counsel at each Site to create guidelines that take into account the various local labor laws and tax restrictions.

NEXT STEPS

- Global Programs will share a Google document containing NYU Berlin's website narrative with the committee for its input and discussion at the next meeting.
- Committee members were asked to continue to think about the themes they would like to have incorporated into the site's academic narrative and to discuss these with their departments.
- Committee members were asked to recommend topics for the next meeting, which may also review new course ideas and horizon planning.
- Next meeting: the committee agreed to focus on academic advising and to continue the conversation and development of academic pathways, opportunities, and themes.