

NYU Berlin Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting

October 2, 2014 (9:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. EST)

IN ATTENDANCE

- Jesse Bransford (Steinhardt)
- Gabriella Etmektsoglou (Site Director – NYU Berlin)
- Alys George (CAS – German Studies)
- Eckart Goebel (CAS – German Studies)
- Karen Hornick (Gallatin)
- Kevin Kuhlke (Tisch)
- Tyra Liebmann (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost's Office)
- Chris Schlottmann (Environmental Studies)
- Jochen Steinbicker (NYU Berlin – Sociology)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Faculty Chair – Karen Hornick volunteered to serve as the Committee's faculty chair, and all Committee members supported her for the role. As Chair, Karen will work closely with Global Programs to help shape future meetings (specifically, agenda development) and the direction of the Committee's work.

NYU Abu Dhabi Representatives – NYU Abu Dhabi has identified two representatives, Reindert Falkenburg and Georgi Derlugian, who will join future Committee meetings.

Affiliates – The Committee affirmed its position to invite affiliate member representatives to the next Committee meeting. Matthew reviewed the definitions of partnerships and affiliations with committee members; a partnership with a global site indicates that a school or department has a deep intellectual stake in and engagement with a site, and currently offers or is developing curricular pathways at the site. An affiliation with a global site means that a department or school currently offers or plans to offer at least one course at that site.

Fall '15/Spring '16 Courses – The Committee reviewed draft Fall '15/Spring '16 course lists. Jesse noted ongoing discussion of an Introduction to Design course to be offered in Spring '16. Gabriella confirmed conversations were underway, particularly around enrollment planning for the course, which may require a second section from another art course to be cancelled to ensure enrollments for the new design course.

Cross-site Committee - The committee discussed ways of ensuring communication between and among SSACs. One idea that was discussed was developing a 'cross-site committee', with representatives from each Site-Specific Advisory Committee. Members concluded that this type

of committee could be valuable, as it would allow for cross-site linkages and synergies to be discussed. That said, it would also be useful to look at other, already existing committees, such as the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network or the Global School Liaisons, to ensure that efforts are not duplicated.

Meeting Frequency – The Committee was in favor of meeting once more this semester, and once in the spring semester. Best-fit times will continue to be coordinated through Doodle polling.

UPDATES FROM SITE DIRECTOR GABRIELLA ETMEKTSOGLU

Gabriella highlighted the upcoming opening of St. Agnes, an exciting new art space in Berlin for NYU’s students where German language studies will also take place. She also gave an overview of the required non-credit student orientation course at NYU Berlin, which incorporates assignments to promote student awareness on topics and issues which have a global dimension. Jochen discussed an example which related to the 25th year anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. He and colleagues developed a “Walk the Wall” experience with students and faculty to give students a personal connection to the academic discussion surrounding the historic anniversary.

Gabriella also discussed upcoming student trips to Weimar and Görlitz (town on the border with Poland) which have been incorporated into course curriculum, providing deeper academic ties to student life excursions. Nancy noted that there is an active discussion among site directors to develop similar student life trips with more integrated academic work across the global sites.

Committee members asked for updates on a few specific matters: Gabriella updated the Committee that two formal meetings (one targeting GLS and one for all students) have been held to discuss internship opportunities with students. NYU Berlin has partnered with Cultural Vistas, a non-profit organization that specializes in providing enriching internship placement that will ideally be tailored to students' specific skill sets, academic, professional and personal goals. In regards to rehearsal space, Kevin updated the group that no decision has been made to date, and that another scouting trip will occur in December. Gabriella noted that rehearsal space is in high demand given the current extreme popularity of Berlin among EU citizens. Commute time to the space from the Academic Center and proximity to local Universities and theaters are key factors in determining the location of rehearsal space.

ACADEMIC TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Working closely with the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network and Global School Liaisons, the Office of Global Programs has developed a process for NYUNY faculty to propose short-term visits to the global sites. The central purpose of the visit will be to strengthen a school or department’s academic relationship with the site. Faculty who wish to apply for travel funds should work with their department chair and Global School Liaison to obtain sign-off, and with the site to accommodate the timing of their proposed visit given all that is going on at a

site at any given time. Pre-existing curricular conversations are not necessary when applying for funding, but the objective of the trip should be focused on furthering a school or department's academic connections with the site. Funds can also be used to look at ways to partner with local institutions or programs. Further information can be found [here](#).

There is also a newly-developed **Global Faculty Fund (GFF)**, which provides opportunities for site faculty to enhance the courses they teach, establish multi-site projects, pursue professional development opportunities, and travel to New York to strengthen relationships with the schools and departments sponsoring their courses. In order to take advantage of the GFF, local faculty should consult with their Site Directors and then develop proposals that will be reviewed by a committee consisting of: one Site Director, one faculty member from a (different) global site, and two faculty members from New York who are currently serving on Site-Specific Advisory Committees representing another two global sites. Members were enthusiastic about the opportunity to bring local faculty to New York to meet with colleagues in their departments. Further information on the GFF can be found [here](#).

If faculty are looking to conduct research or conference activities at the global sites, funds are available through the University's **Global Research Initiatives**:

<https://www.nyu.edu/research/provosts-global-research-initiatives.html>

ADVISING

The Committee reviewed the slides summarizing advising, which had been distributed earlier to members. The Committee asked for clarification about the role of the study-away advisors. Tyra noted that these individuals have site-specific expertise, but also are cross-trained in advising for the entirety of the global network. These study-away advisors are beginning to focus more on academic horizon planning for the students with the goal of informing students about academic pathways when discussing sites. Jesse noted that Steinhardt coordinates with the study-away advising group annually, which has historically worked well. The Committee wanted to give more thought to the multiple points-of-contact for student advising and formulate methods to align and streamline communication between those advisors.

The Committee also discussed best advising practices and cultivated the following ideas:

Pre-Departure:

- Create Berlin Advising Resource Center and Listserve - given the numerous advising points of contact and multitude of advising resources, the Committee suggested a (virtual) platform be created where all advising materials could be centrally located. Alternatively, or in addition, a site-specific advising listserv could be created to provide updates on changes relevant to study-away at the site, and faculty would advise who is on that listserv.

During Study Away:

- Target Mid-term Advising Opportunities - recognizing that even half a semester of study away can significantly alter a student's academic trajectory, the Committee discussed implementing more formalized check-ins with students at midterm to see if their major or minor planning has changed. Another critical time for checking in with students is immediately prior to registration for next semester during study away; NYU Berlin organizes formal meetings with students who plan to study at another site following Berlin to assist them in their selection of courses, or occasionally, selection of a next site.
- Utilize Visiting Faculty from Other Portals - faculty visiting sites through the Global Research Institute or short-term trips provide unique advising opportunities to students at the study away site. Remembering to utilize these visits as advising resources could help offer assistance to students at study away sites who may have recently shifted his or her studies to be in line with the visiting faculty member's school or department.

Matthew shared with the group that the University is piloting a new online planning tool, called the Global Arch Initiative Academic Planner, to assist students (and their advisors) in creating four-year academic plans, including study away opportunities. Members noted that it would be helpful for the advisors in their schools to have a timeline of important dates for studying away, including deadlines for applications, visas, internships, as well as deadlines by which departments have to propose new courses. All of these materials could be centrally located in the advising resource center.

NEXT STEPS

- Chris agreed to present on the undergraduate research opportunities through the Urban Greening Lab at the next meeting.
- Next Meeting: Committee members recommended the following topics for the next meeting: streamlining advising practices; best communication practices among advisors (resource center or listserve?); discussion on the (often over-looked) re-entry experience of students