

NYU Florence Advisory Committee Meeting

September 30, 2014, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

PCR, Bobst 1218

Attendees:

Virginia Cox (CAS - Italian Studies)
David Darts (Art - Steinhardt)
Bruce Edelstein (Florence)
Chris Flinn (CAS - Economics)
Hallie Franks (Gallatin)
Giampiero Gallo (Florence)
Brendan Hogan (Liberal Studies)
Delia Baldassarri (CAS - Sociology)
Gail Segal (Tisch)
Mosette Broderick (CAS - Art History)
Ellyn Toscano (Site Director)
Josh Tucker (CAS - Politics)
Rebecca Morton (NYUAD)

1. Committee Business

Introductions and Committee Meetings

The meeting opened with introductions and a welcoming of new members. The committee agreed to hold only one meeting in the spring during the Site Director visit.

Partnerships and Affiliations

The definitions of partnerships and affiliations were reviewed with committee members. A partnership with a global site means that a school or department has a deep intellectual stake in a site and currently offers or is developing curricular pathways there. 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. The committee agreed that affiliates could be included in some future meetings, such as when the agenda focuses on the curricular planning and/or review of the site.

Faculty Chair

Chris Flinn was nominated to serve as the faculty chair of the committee; Chris agreed.

AY 15/16 Course Lists

The committee reviewed the course lists for Academic Year 15/16 and had some questions, including whether Mathematics for Economics II would be offered in Spring 2016. Global Programs will look into it. It was noted that approving course lists early is critical to advising students on study away opportunities, and that Janet Alperstein would be in touch to discuss overall horizon planning with departments.

The site faculty also raised the issue of how best to manage courses with low enrollments. They felt it was important to consider the make-up of the student body at the site before deciding to offer and/or add a course in order to ensure healthy course enrollments throughout the curriculum. Members also noted that it is necessary for departments to offer enough courses so that students are able to progress in their major. Advising could serve as an important tool to achieve this balance by helping to inform students of their major's offerings at the sites. At the next meeting, the committee would like to further discuss the curriculum and how it aligns with the various cohorts of students at the site. Global Programs will provide data to facilitate this conversation.

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](#).

If faculty are looking to conduct research or conference activities at the global sites, funds are available through the University's [Global Research Initiatives](#).

Finally, the newly-developed Global Faculty Fund (GFF) 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 their schools and departments. In order to take advantage of the GFF, local faculty will 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](#).

Cross-Site Communication Mechanisms

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 might 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.

Emergency Response

Emergency response protocols and the decision to suspend coursework at NYU Tel Aviv and NYU Accra for the Fall 2014 term were discussed with the committee. The University has made similar decisions in the past, such as when it decided to evacuate NYU faculty and graduate students in Egypt in 2010. Each decision is a collaborative process during which various members of the University community are consulted, including faculty, the Office of Risk Management, the Student Health Center, HTH (the University's evacuation partner), and site-based staff. If there are any concerns in the future, the Faculty Chair on the Advisory Committee would be notified.

2. Update from Site Director

Ellyn Toscano announced the exciting news that Giampiero Gallo had been appointed to the Prime Minister's cabinet of economic advisors. In addition, 2014 is NYU's twentieth year at La Pietra, which is being marked with a series of co-curricular programs highlighting Sir Harold Acton's collection and vision for the site.

There are currently 7 Italian Studies graduate students at the site who contribute greatly to the community, not only as peer advisors to the undergraduate students but also through their involvement in the La Pietra Dialogues. The site faculty encouraged faculty in New York to consider graduate programs and GRI opportunities at the site.

It was noted that the housing inventory is beginning to stabilize and that opportunities to lease a larger apartment complex for upper class students are being explored. This would allow NYU to provide great student life support services in the future.

There are a total of 314 undergraduate students -- 234 from NYU, with the remainder from primarily Duke University and Wake Forest University. This number is a little higher than normal, mostly due to a larger freshman cohort (currently 103 students, up from the normal of about 80). However, due to the structured nature of the Liberal Studies curriculum, an increase in the number of freshmen does not necessarily translate into higher enrollments in non-Liberal-Studies courses.

3. Advising

The committee reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on advising, which had been distributed earlier to members, and discussed best practices. Several members thought it would be helpful for department faculty and advisors to have “cheat sheets,” that would list all sites that offer pathways, as well as required and non-required courses in their major. Members generally agreed that departmental websites should list courses offered at the global site, including even hand-outs on courses. For some departments, it may make sense to develop a deeper connection between faculty at the site and faculty at the portals, especially NYUAD.

Several members thought it would be helpful to learn more about how students are advised before declaring a major, and they acknowledged that the sophomore cohort warranted special attention; As many sophomores have not yet declared a major when applying to study abroad, they may not have focused on the site’s academic offerings. In addition, sophomores may require more advising support while abroad if they are in the process of declaring a major. Members agreed that doing presentations at the freshman dorms would be a good way to get students thinking about study abroad from an academic perspective.

A new online planning tool that the University is piloting, called the Global Arch Initiative Academic Planner, was also briefly discussed. The Academic Planner will assist students (and their advisors) in creating four-year academic plans, including study away opportunities.

4. Next Steps

- For the November meeting, Global Programs will provide:
 - An analysis of liberal studies students and their majors
 - Site enrollments by major and minor
 - Course enrollments, and how it aligns with the student body
 - Information on website development to help departments and Schools with advising
 - A list of all advising ideas that grew out of the Site-Specific Advisory Committees

- For discussion at the November meeting:
 - Program evaluations at the sites
 - Immersion in local community