

NYU London Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Monday, April 1, 2019, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM EDT

383 Lafayette, C08

Attendees

- Laura Levine, Chair (Tisch - Drama & Dramatic Writing)
- Paul Wachtel, Chair (Stern- Business & Political Economy)
- Clay Curtis (FAS - Psychology)
- Cheryl Healton (CGPH)
- Greg Erickson (Gallatin)
- Catherine Robson (FAS - English)
- Gail Segal (Tisch Drama)
- Lorcan Folan (Tandon)
- Tim Dore (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- PJ Henry (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Marianne Petit, AVC (Global Network Academic Planning)
- John Robertson (NYU Shanghai)

Meeting Minutes

Catherine Robson, Site Director at NYU London, opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their support while she was on sabbatical last semester. She wished farewell to Eric Sneddon who was acting site director in her absence.

Catherine discussed new curricular developments at the site, as detailed in her Site Director's Report (see attached), which include the introduction of two new courses: Steinhardt's Food, Culture & Globalization, and Reading as a Writer: Playwriting in the English department. She announced a potential new track at NYU London entitled "Global Citizenship" which will include an internship and focus on social justice, activism and global citizenship.

In procedural developments, all Liberal Studies freshman courses are now taught in the twice-a-week model; other courses will take this format when pedagogically appropriate. From Fall 2019 onwards, there will no longer be a Fall break and instead there will be two "long-weekend" fall breaks which includes a Thanksgiving holiday. NYU London is working closely with all EU students, staff and faculty to make legal plans and conduct risk analyses for possible future outcomes of Brexit.

Janet Alperstein, Assistant Vice President at Global Programs, discussed enrollment updates in the Data Packet. Enrollments between Fall and Spring continue to be imbalanced. For minors in particular, students typically do not declare them until right before graduation; given this, it is interesting to see how many declared minors are already on the list.

Spring 2019 Site Director Report: NYU London

Curriculum

Fall 2018 saw us welcoming five new lecturers to lead existing courses, and three to cover for lecturers on leave. For Spring 2019, we have hired new lecturers for existing courses (*British Art in London; Personality; Designing Britain; British Cinema: London on Film*) and cover lecturers for two further courses. As ever, we are indebted to our New York colleagues for their partnership in securing new hires.

Last semester also witnessed the introduction of two new courses: our first two credit class, Steinhardt's *Food, Culture & Globalization*, plus *Reading as a Writer: Playwriting*, a brand-new offering for the English Department. This spring we have launched three exciting new ventures:

- * In collaboration with the UK's prestigious [National Film and Television School](#) and Tisch School of the Arts, we are offering *Directing the Actor*, a 3-credit course which is a practical workshop on the principles and processes of directing with an emphasis upon the interactions between the director, actor, and script. Students travel to the NFTS in Beaconsfield (40 minutes from central London) to work with professional actors and crew to rehearse and shoot their projects.
- * Working with Tandon School of Engineering for the first time, we are offering two new courses - *Linear Algebra and Differential Equations* and *Waves, Optics, & Thermodynamics* with lab sections. We are delighted to welcome this new cohort of students to NYUL.
- * Twelve Legal Studies majors from NYUAD are with us this semester to participate in a new venture with Birkbeck College, University of London. Taking two courses (*Torts* and *Criminal Law*) this spring, and a further three in the fall, students are taught by faculty members of Birkbeck's law school. Other departments and schools are also pursuing discussions to bring about a fuller collaboration between NYUL and Birkbeck, our closest academic neighbor, across a range of disciplines.

Gallatin, which runs a successful Fashion track at NYUL, has asked us to consider a new track, tentatively entitled "Global Citizenship." NYUL's lecturer/program manager for Business, Political Economy and Entrepreneurship Dr Abby Kendrick, whose disciplinary speciality lies in the area of Ethical Economics, has put together a discussion document; we are very interested to know whether other schools would like to participate in this exciting venture.

Other New Developments

- * We are delighted to announce that **all** Liberal Studies freshmen courses are now taught in the twice-a-week model. An increasing number of our other courses, where pedagogically appropriate, also take this format.
- * From Fall 2019 onwards, NYUL's academic calendar will include two "long-weekend" fall breaks (in late October, and Thanksgiving) instead of the week-long fall break at the beginning of November.

Scheduling make-up sessions for the week-long break had become untenable; this move, modeled on NYU-NY practice, solves the problem and still offers students good opportunities for travel and relaxation.

* February 2019 saw the retirement of NYUL's long-time Associate Director and recent Acting Site Director Eric Sneddon, and the arrival of Sati Thandi as our new Associate Director. Sati brings us a wealth of experience, most notably from her nine years as the Director of Administration at the School of Economics and Finance at Queen Mary, University of London.

* NYUL is devoting increasing attention to student well-being and mental health. Student Affairs continues to stage well-attended student events in themed weeks offering support and raising awareness; staff have been attending sessions on responding to "Students in Distress," a workshop developed by Dr Zoe Ragouzeos, NYU's Director of Counseling and Wellness, and ably led for us here by Aylish O'Driscoll, one of our site's two counselors.

* Work on IDBE initiatives at the site continues apace (for more details, see under "Evaluations" below).

Engagement with other sites/global network initiatives

We are always pleased to interact with faculty and administrators from across the global network; each year we welcome a large number of visitors, some of whom come to stage events, to participate in NYUL courses, to teach in J-Term or Summer programs, or to learn more about the possibilities for developing innovative educational experiences for our students and colleagues in London. Please let me know if you wish to come to Bedford Square to further an academic initiative or curricular program.

Co-curricular engagement

Co-curricular activities remain an important part of our courses' site-specific vitality. During Fall 2018, 61 trips were arranged in addition to theatre visits. New destinations this year have included Pitts River Museum in Oxford for *Global Fashion Industry*; Richmond Park for *Environmental Studies*; and the Oxford Literary Festival for *Creative Writing* and *Writing II*. At the same time, NYUL remains mindful of affordability and equity. As announced in our February faculty meeting, we are reviewing all co-curricular trips this semester to ensure that in each instance they genuinely expand or enhance the academic experience of a given course.

Program evaluations

* Both quantitative and qualitative data from the Fall 2018 evaluations continue to reveal strong student satisfaction with experiences at NYU London. We were nevertheless disappointed by the relatively low participation rate (39%) this time around and are working on ways to boost returns this spring.

* We were delighted to see many expressions of appreciation for NYUL's vibrant IDBE Team, and commend our colleagues Nigel Freeman, Assistant Director for Student Affairs and Idroma Montgomery from the Academics Team for their extensive work with our lively student volunteers; we were also very pleased to welcome our first Global Equity fellow this fall. This year we are seeing

an increasing number of students participating in events e.g. tabling and fundraising for Imkaan for International Women's Day; exhibitions and month-long programming for LGBTQ History Month; and Women's History Month. As part of our goal to increase awareness of modern and historic diversity issues we introduced Cultural Programming trips to the Slavery Museum in Liverpool and an LGBTQ+ themed tour of Brighton. In addition, IDBE themes are interwoven into our Ally Week organized by Student Affairs. We also continue to work on strategies to support our faculty members so that they feel fully able to lead productive classroom discussions about challenging social issues.

* We are pleased to note that students find their academic experiences at NYUL challenging and rigorous, but recognize that we can always improve. We are, for instance, working with our faculty to ensure that in all courses assignments are evenly spaced throughout the term, so that students get earlier, and more frequent, feedback on their progress.