

NYU Tel Aviv Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting
Third Meeting: April 9, 2014 (10:00 – 11:30am EST/5:00 – 6:30pm)

IST) IN ATTENDANCE

- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Michah Gottlieb (Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Hilton Hallock (Global Programs)
- Benjamin Hary (NYU Tel Aviv)
- Erin Kuhn (Global Programs)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Mark Siegal (Biology)
- Ron Zweig (NYU Tel Aviv)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost's Office)

NYU TEL AVIV UPDATE

The committee received the following updates on NYU Tel Aviv:

Science Courses: Tel Aviv University is very pleased with NYU's science students, even labeling one a "genius." Members agreed that as word spreads about the science opportunities at NYU Tel Aviv, student interest in the site will rise.

Facilities: Students are very enthusiastic about the new housing facility, so much so that some are spending the majority of their time in the building and adjoining courtyard. While this dynamic builds community among the students, NYU Tel Aviv is also looking for ways to encourage all of its residents to explore Tel Aviv.

It was also noted that Global Programs is working with NYU Tel Aviv to improve classroom space and housing, as the new housing facility will undergo construction to build a third floor.

Visas: Global Programs and NYU Tel Aviv are working together to improve the visa approval process for students, so that once in the country students do not experience difficulties getting new visas or having their visas changed.

Speakers Program: NYU Tel Aviv's public speakers program has been overwhelmingly successful. Students have demanded more programming, so the site has developed a private lecture series for this purpose.

Tours: All NYU Tel Aviv students participate in three tours of Israel, totaling thirteen days. These tours provide opportunities for local engagement with Paths to Peace alumni and others. Many students have expressed an interest in visiting Palestine. NYU Tel Aviv will develop a proposal for a trip to Palestine that will include working with Paths to Peace's Office in Ramallah.

Local and Experiential Opportunities for Students: NYU Students are given the opportunity to engage with local Tel Aviv University students through a "buddy" program, access to their

library, and participation in their courses. NYU Tel Aviv students also have the opportunity to engage in internships across a number of different sectors. Internships expected for the fall 2014 semester can be found here: <http://www.nyu.edu/global/global-academic-centers/telaviv/academics/internships.html>

Of note, *The Guardian* published an article on Ma'agan Safe House, an Israeli government-funded program for victims of human trafficking and also an organization at which an NYU Tel Aviv student interned this spring. The article can be found here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/feb/20/sinai-slavery-and-torture-survivors-share-their-experiences-israeli-ethiopian>

CURRICULUM DISCUSSIONS

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.

NEW COURSES

Representatives from NYU Tel Aviv and Global Programs provided the following updates on new courses at the site:

Languages of Israel: NYU Tel Aviv will offer a course titled "The Languages of Israel," which will be an option for fulfilling the language requirement at NYU Tel Aviv. The course, which provides a linguistic and cultural introduction to both Hebrew and Arabic, is intended for Science majors who are not planning to continue with Hebrew or Arabic language courses as part of their degree requirements. Having received the unanimous approval of the College's Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, the course will be piloted in Spring 2015.

Physics: Global Programs is in conversation with the Physics department about offering Physics I in the fall and, possibly, Physics II in the spring. The department would need to use Tel Aviv University's lab space.

Arabic Language: NYU Tel Aviv is developing an intensive summer Arabic language course that would align with the NYUNY calendar. This course will be piloted in summer 2015.

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.
- The following potential pathways emerged from discussion:
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Hebrew and Judaic Studies
- The following themes were also discussed:
 - Science and Discovery
 - Entrepreneurship and Business
 - Israeli Society in the Context of the Middle East
 - Antiquity and Modernity
 - Religious Life

WEBSITE NARRATIVE

The current NYU Tel Aviv homepage and academic website narratives were shared with the committee for review and discussion in the context of the themes and synergies under consideration. The group agreed to have the Office of Global Programs begin editing the narrative based on the discussion from this meeting.

AFFILIATE DEPARTMENTS

The committee considered how best to include affiliate schools/departments in the ongoing curriculum development discussions. Ultimately, the committee agreed that affiliate schools and departments may be invited to the next meeting in Fall 2014.

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

Members suggested that Ron Zweig could chair the committee meetings during Fall 2014, as he will have transitioned out of the role of Site Director. Mark Siegal volunteered to serve as chair starting in spring 2015.

NEXT STEPS

- Global Programs will begin editing the text of the NYU Tel Aviv website.
- Global Programs will reach out to the committee to schedule the next meeting in Fall 2014.