

**NYU Washington DC Site-Specific Advisory Committee**  
**Inaugural Meeting: October 9th, 2013 (4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. EDT)**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

- Kerry Barrett (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Pat Egan (Politics)
- Randy Hertz (Law)
- Ann Kurth (GIPH)
- Paul Light (Wagner)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Sanford Gordon (Politics)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost's Office)
- Charles Seife (Journalism)
- Ken Silver (Art History)
- Laura Sponsler (NYU Washington, DC)
- Michael Ulrich (NYU Washington, DC)
- Global Academic Team

**INTRODUCTIONS**

On behalf of their departments/schools, members of the committee introduced themselves, their areas of academic interest, and their relationship to NYU Washington, DC.

**FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Site-Specific Advisory Committees grew out of extensive consultations last year with the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network and the GNU Initiatives Committee of the Faculty Senators Council, as well as with the Site Directors, School and Global Deans, and many NYU departments, schools, and faculty members.

Four themes emerged from those conversations: (a) every Site is different owing to its history and trajectory of development; (b) faculty would like to be more actively involved with the Global Sites, not only by approving course syllabi and instructors, as they do now, but by engaging in deeper conversations about curriculum planning and site identity; (c) while many faculty were involved in setting up and developing the Sites, they served primarily in an individual capacity and not as representatives of their schools and departments; and (d) no forum existed to discuss synergies among academic programs at the Global Sites. As a result, site-specific faculty committees were formed.

The committees comprise faculty from schools and departments with existing or planned partnerships at Global Sites, though faculty from affiliated schools and departments will be invited to participate in the curriculum discussions of the site committees. (More information on these committees can be found here: [www.nyu.edu/global/globalacademic-partnerships-and-affiliations/faculty-discussions-on-global-sites.html](http://www.nyu.edu/global/globalacademic-partnerships-and-affiliations/faculty-discussions-on-global-sites.html))

## **SITE OVERVIEW NYU**

An overview of the Site covered the following areas:

- **Site History:** NYU Washington, DC is now entering its second year with 20 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in courses and another 32 visiting students using Site housing. With several schools and departments planning courses there and with targeted outreach to specific groups, enrollments will rise over the next year.
- **Faculty:** Eighty-six percent of faculty at NYU Washington, DC have a PhD or terminal degree. The institutions where Site faculty have been employed include the Associated Press, the Phillips Collection, and the World Bank.
- **Facilities:** The Site boasts a 40,000 square foot academic space that was built for this purpose and includes a lecture hall, seminar rooms, a computer lab, and a reading room, as well as another 36,000 square feet of residential space on the upper floors.
- **Centers and Institutes:** NYU Washington hosts the Brademas Center for the Study of Congress, the Brennan Center for Justice, the Provost's Global Research Initiative, and the Government Relations Office.
- **GRI:** The Provost's Global Research Initiative has sponsored faculty fellows and graduate students fellows in Washington, DC, as well as four fellows for the Summer Dissertation Writing Workshop.
- **Experiential Learning:** NYU Washington, DC offers unique internship opportunities for students in a wide variety of fields, such as politics, journalism, and the arts. In particular, Washington, DC is home to a variety of NGOs that can host students for internships and also collaborate with NYU in meaningful ways. The White House, the Center for American Progress, and the Securities and Exchange Commission were cited as recent examples of internships held by NYU Washington, DC students.
- **Public Programming:** NYU Washington provides rich public programming, hosting over 30 public events since its inception last year. He stressed the importance of NYU's large alumni network in DC and highlighted the Weissberg Forum for Discourse in the Public Square -- a gift from a member of NYU Washington, DC's steering committee in support of a scholarly lecture series. This fall the focus of the forum is immigration.

## **KEY ISSUES**

The committee then discussed the following issues:

- **Curriculum Development:** The committee considered what would make course offerings in Washington, DC, distinct from those on the Square. Art History's interest in offering courses on American art was discussed. It was noted that Journalism is interested in sending

undergraduates to study reporting and politics, and might eventually want to put in DC one semester of its graduate program in “Reporting the Nation.” Also noted was the fact that Politics students at NYU Washington, DC would have unique access to a wide range of practitioners, complementing the more analytical approach of the Politics department. The Politics department is currently planning to offer courses in DC toward a certificate in American Political Practice and Leadership. Other ideas included the study race and class, and the prospect of bringing graduate students to DC. The committee then discussed a January Term course titled “The President and Social Impact,” as well as a Wagner Public Policy course. Other topics included crosslisting courses to maximize efficiency and aligning coursework with public events and research opportunities.

- **Advisement/Engagement:** While the committee expressed enthusiasm for the new courses and programs being planned for NYU Washington, DC, several people noted the importance of implementing effective engagement strategies to draw students to the Site. It was pointed out that outreach activities are now underway for prelaw students and business studies minors. Other ideas for engagement included highlighting the professional benefits of studying and interning in Washington, DC, and promoting NYU Washington, DC as a Site for students at NYU Abu Dhabi and NYU Shanghai, as well as international students on the Square who are interested in experiencing a city that is a center not only of American government, but also international organizations and governments. NYU Washington, DC attracts a higher percentage of sophomores than other sites and many students from NYUNY enrolled in NYU Washington, DC haven't studied away before and don't plan to do so after DC.

- **Faculty:** The committee noted that there is a pause on faculty circulation as the School Deans and the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network consider this issue; Global Programs is also researching the related visa, tax, and labor issues. The Committee discussed ways of building stronger ties between NYU Washington, DC and the Square.

## **NEXT STEPS**

The committee decided that two meetings a semester seemed appropriate. The members will go back to their respective schools and departments to discuss opportunities for further engagement with NYU Washington, DC, and report back in about five weeks. The Office of Global Programs will also work with the Politics Department to develop a focus group to identify key factors influencing students' decision to enroll at the Site.

The agenda for the committee's next meeting will include:

- Curriculum development
- Internships
- Public programming The Office of Global Programs will begin gathering whatever data are needed to explore these issues.