

NYU Paris Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 28, 2018 11:30 am–12:45pm

In Attendance:

Afrodesia McCannon (Liberal Studies)
Almaz Zelleke (NYU Shanghai)
Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt Media Culture, Communication/NYU Paris)
Beth Epstein (NYU Paris)
Deborah Landau (Creative Writing)
Eliot Borenstein (Global Programs/Slavic Studies)
Ludovic Cortade (French)
Pierre M Germain (Courant)
Ronald H Sadoff (Steinhardt – Music and Performing Arts Professions)
Stephane A Gerson (French)
Sana Odeh (Computer Science)
Alfred Galichon (NYU Paris)
Edward G Berenson (FAS History)
Lisa Goldfarb (Gallatin)
Mosette Broderick (Art History)
Linda Mills (Global Programs)
Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
Tyra Liebmann (Global Programs)
Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)

I. Introduction:

On behalf of their departments/schools, members of the Paris Advisory Committee introduced themselves and their department's relationship to NYU Paris. After welcoming attendees, Linda Mills began meeting with the search announcement for the NYU Madrid Site Director position.

II. Site Director Report: Alfred Galichon

Paris is expanding toward capacity with the goal of developing programs that create new academic opportunities and make better use of space. Enrollment for spring 2019 semester is the highest yet with the site expecting between 270-280 students. This brings challenges in housing and offering sufficient space in classes.

Students are drawn to new courses, specifically two new Computer Science courses that will continue from fall into spring (*Intro to Machine Learning* and *Intro to Computer Security*) and two new courses in Math added in spring 2019 (*Analysis and Functions of a Complex Variable*). The addition of Media, Culture, and Communication transfer students under the supervision of Aurora Wallace has also created a new cohort of students and new MCC courses at the site.

Alfred highlighted recent efforts aimed to actively promote NYU Paris, such as his own visits to NY (including 16 class visits in two days) and Abu Dhabi in the Fall; sending NYU Paris lecturers to portal

campuses; and encouraging NYU Paris lecturers to visit classes while in New York through the Global Faculty Fund. Alfred also discussed the focus on communicating more effectively through social media and the web. Alfred then discussed recent efforts to improve lecturer morale and build a sense of cohesion across NYU Paris. He discussed doing this via small group meetings with each lecturer to foster the sense of an “intellectual community,” by bringing lecturer offices closer to the student life team, and making better use of lounge space to bring together lecturers and staff. Additionally, there are plans to have lecturers hold talks and exhibit their photography to showcase their projects and create links among lecturers and between lecturers and students.

Alfred also discussed plans already underway to rethink existing partnerships in France. A number of agreements are due for renewal, creating the opportunity to rethink the terms of exchanges. Specifically, conditions have changed significantly since the existing exchange agreements were created (e.g. more Paris university students coming to New York to study versus fewer NYU students studying at exchange universities in Paris), which means that NYU is not able to fully utilize the agreements. There is also the need to reach out to new partners to create opportunities for the influx of math and computer science students now coming to NYU Paris.

Alfred mentioned that he had successfully reassured NYU Paris lecturers that new courses (such as math/computer science) will not replace their courses. Discussion turned to Ludovic Cortade’s recent successful visit to NYU Paris to meet with faculty as a representative of the French department. Ludovic reported that his visit was well received, and that he had good conversations with lecturers regarding teaching strategies. Alfred reinforced that the site is happy to host faculty from New York and to discuss any concerns; he cited a recent visit from Ana Fluim, a Music Department faculty member, which helped to clarify questions about how the site is engaging with music partnerships.

Discussion of Academic Pathways and Recent Searches:

Two long-term Art History instructors left NYU Paris recently so there is now a need to replace them.

A new Art History course will be offered in Spring 2019—*Non-Western Art in Paris*. There are promising lecturer candidates but the search is not finalized.

Recruitment for a lecturer is almost complete for *Gender and Sexuality in France* course (which is no longer a Topics course).

Media, Culture, and Communication: Ted Magder and Erich Dietrich visited Paris recently, received positive feedback from students and reported that the students seem happy.

Music: 26 students in Spring 18 and 9 in Fall 18; given minimum enrollment requirements and the importance of the partnership with IRCAM, there is a need for further discussion as all parties want to maintain the optimal relationship with IRCAM. Alfred, Beth Epstein, Ted Magder and Erich Dietrich met with the director of IRCAM, who had recently returned from visit in NY and was very pleased.

New Fall 2018 Courses:

- *Languages in Paris* (Sociolinguistic course)
- *Smartphone Cinema*—by popular demand, the site will offer it in spring 2019. Alfred mentioned it is attractive to a large range of students, for instance it is popular also with the science students.

- 2 MCC courses—*Intro to Media Studies* and *History of Media and Communication* taught by Aurora Wallace. Aurora reports the courses are doing well.
- 2 new Comp Science courses (*Intro to Machine Learning* and *Introduction to Computer Security*); 2 students enrolled in *Intro to Machine Learning* this semester; the site identified an issue with the pre-requisites that prevented enrollment. Given the variations in computer science curricula across the university, additional recitations have been added in Paris to ensure students are prepared to succeed in the classes.

New Courses in Spring 2019:

- *Crime, Violence and Media* (MCC)
- *Food in France* (French)
- *Non-Western Art in Paris* (Art History)
- 2 Math: *Functions of a Complex Variable* and *Analysis I*

Co-Curricular Activities

Overnight trips remain popular with students; of particular note, the trip to Calais to volunteer with refugees was described as a defining moment for students' experience.

University Priorities

Local Engagement

A discussion commenced on having conversations with departments to determine the best way to integrate local engagement within the various curricula. Though more universities in Paris are offering undergraduate courses in English, thereby creating more opportunities for local engagement, it is more difficult for those students who are beginners with French. Cité Universitaire was discussed in this context, a residential campus on the outskirts of Paris that has several "houses" associated with specific countries; it was a post-World War I utopian project to have students from different countries interact on a regular basis. NYU students are in two houses — one will be renovated next semester to renovate and enhance safety standards; the newly constructed second house has a high-tech system for controlling heat but there were several issues with heating/cooling. The site is working with Cité to improve this.

Home stays were also discussed as highly immersive experiences as students speak French at home with their families. Martina Faltova, Assistant Director for Student Life, worked to promote home stays during the pre-departure orientation phase but the option is less and less popular to students. It is not clear why this is the case in Paris; in other sites, homestays are popular options. Home stays are considerably less expensive than staying in dorms and present the perfect opportunity for both affordability and immersion. Alfred asked for ideas about how to better promote home stays. Stephane Gerson posited that the decreased interest may be due to the socio-economic status of students who self-select to go to NYU Paris. Linda Mills mentioned that home stays are popular in Florence; she suggested that the Student Life team hold a separate meeting during pre-departure orientation on "housing options" and have returning home stay students attend. Linda and Nancy Morrison reported that surveys reveal overwhelmingly positive reviews of home stays yet students also report choosing NYU because of option for singles and private bathroom; thus, the allure of private space can be stronger. Aurora Wallace suggested promoting meal options associated with home stays as students can

avoid preparing their own meals in the dorm. Stephane highlighted the attractiveness of linguistic immersion achieved in home stays.

Future vision:

Alfred discussed initiating programming with the School of Professional Studies during August when the building is not in use, as well as preliminary plans to promote NYU Paris to professional schools.

Inclusion, Diversity, Belonging, and Engagement

Alfred discussed the various workshops held for incoming students during Welcome Week.

III. Program Evaluation Report

Alfred highlighted the following elements of the Spring 2019 results: LS Freshmen found their year abroad very challenging; Alfred sees this positively but is concerned a heavy workload may be related to the finding that not many students attend non-mandatory events. Paris also received an encouraging result on the question regarding engagement with the local community—this may be related to the Tandem program, local university attendance, and/or shared kitchens at Cité (given that Parisian students live there as well). Alfred identified Student Life assistance as an area for improvement, and cited the transition in the Student Life Director in first half of 2018 as possibly related to a less than ideal result. A new counselor has also been hired, which the site hopes will also help the students feel more supported in the spring.

IV. Discussion of Data: Janet Alperstein

Janet thanked Pierre Germain for allowing Global Programs to direct e-mail math students under his name, which likely assisted with recruitment of math students. The fall and spring imbalance in Paris continues. Janet explained that the breakdown by school includes schools that do not have formal partnerships (e.g. Nursing, SPS). For spring, sophomore and junior numbers increased slightly while seniors remain steady. Janet pointed out that students with double majors are included twice in the “Students by Major” list. Janet highlighted that course offerings by school and major as well as core substitutions are now being advertised more clearly on our academic webpages.

V. Conclusion

There were no questions from the committee.

Linda concluded the meeting and thanked all the departments, Aurora Wallace, Beth Epstein and Alfred Galichon for their contributions.