

NYU Washington, D.C., Site Specific Advisory Committee
Meeting of Friday, March 31, 2017, 9:30-10:45 a.m.
President's Conference Room

MINUTES

Present: Janet Alperstein (Global Programs), Patrick Egan (FAS-Politics), Jessica Green (FAS-Environmental Studies), Peter Holm (Global Programs), Tyra Liebmann (Global Programs), Maura Pollard (Global Programs), John Robertson (NYU Shanghai), Matthew Santirocco (Global Programs), Jaci Czarnecki Thompson (Global Programs), Michael Ulrich (Site Director)

Via teleconference: Julie Anne Avina (CGPH), Anthony Bertelli (Wagner), Victoria Kiechel (NYUDC), Olugbenga Ogedegbe (Global Programs), Adam Ramey (NYUAD)

Absent: Kerry Barrett (NYUAD), Peter Diamond (Liberal Studies), Christian Haefke (NYUAD), Maria Montoya (FAS-History), Charles Seife (FAS-Journalism), Michael Williams (FAS-International Relations)

1. Announcements

As the global network continues to evolve and play an increasingly significant role in contributing to NYU's academic mission, and in response to suggestions from two key faculty committees, the University created new part-time faculty leadership roles related to global academic and faculty planning and conducted open searches to fill them. Coming out of that process, senior faculty members from five schools (i.e., Arts and Science, Global Public Health, Medicine, Shanghai, and Tisch) have taken on new roles over the past year:

- Associate Vice Chancellors for Global Network Academic Planning: Professor Olugbenga ("Gbenga") Ogedegbe (School of Medicine and College of Global Public Health) and Professor Marianne Petit (Tisch School of the Arts and NYU Shanghai)
- Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Network Faculty Planning: Professor Zvi Ben-Dor Benite (Faculty of Arts and Science)
- Senior Academic Convenor for the Global Network: Professor Eliot Borenstein (Faculty of Arts and Science)

Faculty members should feel free to reach out to Gbenga, Marianne, Zvi, or Eliot with comments or questions about the global network at any time.

2. Spring 2017 Site Director Report

Michael Ulrich reported on developments in curriculum, enrollment, University priorities, student activities, and faculty hiring at NYU DC. He noted that it is the fifth anniversary of the site, and, overall, students' fall 2016 course evaluations were the strongest to date. Some other highlights:

Liberal Studies first-year global study program

- The new Academic Writing Specialist, Alicia Gleason, has been well-received. She has started a creative writing group that includes students from other area universities.
- A two-credit PASS/FAIL fieldwork seminar has been developed for the spring. Students have indicated that they prefer to take this course in the spring semester.

Global Leadership Scholars program

- The fall 2016 program evaluations were the strongest of our three cohorts.
- Some students have indicated that they would like the Meaning of Leadership course to be more rigorous and challenging. We will be tweaking the course for next semester.

Pathways/Affiliates

- The fall 2016 program evaluations were the weakest of the three cohorts, but were consistent with results from other sites.

Other courses

- Pat Egan's 2017 J-Term course, "Election 2016: Causes and Consequences," had 52 students and was a great success. Students were eager for an analytical overview of the election and American political landscape, and there was a good range of speakers representing a variety of viewpoints. The course combined classroom and experiential learning (e.g., visits to museums, meetings with government and NGO officials).
- The "Politics of Latin America" course for Stern BPE students will be replaced with the course "The Presidency" open to all students.
- Stern has received approval from New York State for a two-year executive MBA program at NYU DC. This program is projected to start in fall 2018. We have submitted accreditation requests to Middle States and the State Accreditation Office of Washington, DC to change NYU DC from a "site" to an "additional location."

3. Fall 2016 Program Evaluation Report

Michael gave a summary of the fall 2016 Program Evaluations. The DC team is continuing to look at ways to enhance the academic experience for students, offer more opportunities for engagement and interaction, and facilitate discussions about diversity and identity. In particular, in the current political climate, ideological diversity is very important in DC. Staff and lecturers have received training on how to respectfully listen to others with different viewpoints, and students are required to participate in the Intersections program, which creates opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of one's self and others.

4. Spring 2017 Data Packet and Fall 2016 Course Evaluations

Janet Alperstein gave a brief overview of the spring 2017 Data Packet focusing on enrollment trends, and the fall 2016 Course Evaluations. She noted that the overall course evaluations were the highest so far for the site. Only two lecturers were evaluated below 4.0! Some courses received less positive evaluations than did the lecturer. In these cases, we have made

recommendations for specific ways in which the courses might be revised, and we will continue to work with the instructors on improvements.

5. Curricular Development

Matthew observed that NYU DC is growing robustly and that students are coming to the site even if their schools do not have curricular pathways there. He asked the committee for ideas on ways to develop the curriculum, while noting that student desire and available faculty largely determine which courses are offered at a given site. He shared that NYU Florence had recently convened a Curricular Planning meeting which generated some very interesting ideas, including the concept of inter-disciplinary “clusters” on specific themes. Matthew asked if there were any themes around which NYU DC could build a cluster, e.g., Leadership & Politics (with partnership from the GLS, Politics, History, and Journalism) or Politics & Economy.

Pat commented that the course list in DC is very politics heavy and that it would be great to explore ideas to make other pathways attractive to students. Tony Bertelli remarked that it has been hard to satisfy the requirements for the new Public Policy major (joint CAS-Wagner) in DC, even though the location would seem a natural place to do so. Ron Christie’s new course, “Politics of Public Policy,” which is being offered for the first time this semester, should help in this regard.

5. Other Topics

Janet asked the committee to review the course list for AY 2017-2018 and let her know if there were any changes for AY 2018-2019.

Committee members going on sabbatical are requested to let Maura know so that we can reach out to the appropriate department for a new representative.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.