

## **NYU Buenos Aires Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 11:00 am

383 Lafayette Street #C08

### **Attendees**

Millery Polyne (Gallatin/Committee Chair)

Bernadette Boden Albala (CGPH/Committee Chair)

Anna Kazumi Stahl (NYU BA)

Maira Perez (NYU BA)

Amy Wilson (Law)

Maria Davila (Lourdes) (FAS, Spanish and Portuguese)

Lucas Siga (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Carole Anne Spreen (Steinhardt, Education Studies)

Tom Ertman (College Core Curriculum)

Rodney Benson (Steinhardt, MCC)

Gigliana Melzi (Steinhardt, - Applied Psychology), Returning from Sabbatical

Conor Brady (Global Programs)

Nancy J Morrison (Global Programs)

Gbenga Ogedegbe (Global Programs)

Nyoka Joseph (Global Programs)

### **Global Learning Objectives Report**

The Faculty Working Group on Global Learning Objectives (GLO) first convened in October 2016 for the purpose of having a faculty-driven conversation about global learning objectives. Comprising 17 faculty members from across the university, the committee met 8 times during the 2016-2017 academic year.

In May 2017, the committee issued a report on its findings (available on the NYU website [here](#)). The report articulates proposed learning objectives for study away for students across all disciplines so that the University can ensure program alignment and begin to measure its success in meeting these objectives.

The report was discussed at the Fall 2017 site directors meetings, and in Spring 2018 it will be featured and discussed in a series of "global conversations" among faculty convened by Professor Eliot Borenstein, a member of the Working Group and the Senior Academic Convenor for the Global Network. As a leading institution in global education, NYU is well positioned to be advancing thinking and practice in this area, as well.

### **Site Director Report**

Anna Kazumi Stahl, Site Director at NYU Buenos Aires, summarized the Site Director Report, which was distributed to the committee in advance of the meeting. In particular, Anna highlighted, and the committee discussed, the following:

- The committee's interdisciplinary approach to developing the site's curriculum has had a profound effect on classroom discussion. Utilizing NYU Buenos Aires' site identity as a place to explore themes of social justice has allowed courses to develop interdisciplinary ties while allowing students with various skill sets to experience the theme of a course from different disciplinary approaches. For example, Tango and Mass Culture was offered in English for the first time last fall with co-sponsorship from MCC, Gallatin and Spanish & Portuguese department. Previously the course had enrollment challenges and the new partnership has allowed students from different disciplines to better understand the course which uses the history of tango as a lens through which the history of Argentina can be viewed.
- There is a potential new Politics/IR (political economy-focused) pathway on the horizon, which could attract more Politics & Economics students at NYU Buenos Aires. The proposed political economy course would complement the "Inter/American Relations" as well as the "Money and Banking" courses already being offered.
- A residence option for 12 students has made it possible to attract students who typically would not consider NYU Buenos Aires in the past due to the required homestay component. The residential experience for students is relatively new at the site, but it seems to be attracting a different cohort of students who prefer to live independently.
- The committee discussed "The Future Perfect," a film about a young Chinese woman's challenge of learning Spanish in Buenos Aires. It was mentioned that NYU Shanghai now offers Spanish and that the film could possibly encourage students to consider NYU Madrid or NYU Buenos Aires as an alternative study-away experience outside of English-speaking countries.
- Students express continued interest in requesting Independent Study opportunities with lecturers at the site, which potentially could be accessed through an internship program or field work and experiential learning courses. The committee acknowledges that this would require a larger conversation with individual schools and local partners to determine the feasibility of engaging in such opportunities.
- The committee expressed an interest in having NYU Buenos Aires become a Global Research Initiative (GRI) site as a mechanism for local engagement and by engaging with the diverse academic population that currently exists in Buenos Aires.

### **Program Evaluations**

Anna reviewed the Spring 2017 Program Evaluations. The program evaluations, developed by a committee of faculty and site directors, were first administered to the global sites in Spring 2015, and have since undergone extensive changes to ask fewer, more targeted questions.

Anna noted that students find the program moderately challenging but that there seems to be more homework and projects outside of the classroom in BA relative to other surveyed locations. The committee discussed whether it was possible to determine how much these

responses measure perception versus reality, and whether the question might be re-framed to understand how the classes BA augment or enhance overall learning, rather than try to quantify differences. Anna suggested asking the students “In what ways have the classes deepened or enhanced your experiences and questions about related topics?” Anna also noted several areas on which the site continues to work to better respond to and support students, including:

- Immersion and local engagement continues to be a top priority at NYU Buenos Aires. Having students live in homestays has continuously added to that overall goal.
- Increasing opportunities for students to access a variety of courses that fulfill different requirements, through the interdisciplinary approach and opportunity to co-sponsor courses between schools and departments.

### **Next Steps**

- Explore the possibility of NYU Buenos Aires as a Global Research Initiative (GRI) site with the Provost.