

NYU Accra Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, October 30th 2018 9:30am - 10:45am  
President Conference Room (Bobst 1218)

**In Attendance**

- Rosalind Frederick (Gallatin - Chair)
- Akosua Anyidoho (NYU Accra, Site Director)
- Elizabeth King (International Education & Peace and Conflict Studies)
- Renee Blake (FAS-SCA & Linguistics)
- Andrew Eisenberg (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Almaz Zelleke (NYU Shanghai)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Gbenga Ogedegbe (Global Programs)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Nyoka Joseph (Global Programs)

**Introductions & Announcements**

It was announced that Akosua Anyidoho would step down as the NYU Accra Site Director in December 2019. The search for a new site director would be announced in February 2019.

The Committee Chair announced the start of discussions on the development of a joint African Health major between the College of Arts & Sciences, Department of Social Cultural Analysis and the College of Global Public Health.

As a global network initiative, NYU Accra would host the College of Global Public Health (CGPH) Advisory Board meeting, in collaboration with the University of Ghana. Created in 2017, the CGPH Advisory Board is comprised of leaders in the field of global public health who advise CGPH, meeting twice annually. A reception would be hosted at NYU Accra to expose the board members to students and the facilities, at which time Cross-Continental Master of Public Health students would present their research projects.

The annual Gallatin Global Faculty Symposium on the topic “Post Colonial Cities at Crossroads,” would occur in 2019 at NYU Accra. A cross section of NYU faculty would travel to Accra and would have the opportunity to meet with NYU Accra lecturers as well as invited faculty from the University of Ghana.

**Updates on Study Away and Academic Developments at the Global Sites**

NYU Accra would have 36 students attending in spring 2019, the largest spring enrollment at the site to date.

## **Site Director's Report**

Akosua Anyidoho gave an overview of the site director's report and spring 2018 student evaluation distributed to the committee in advance of the meeting. Akosua highlighted and the committee discussed the following:

### **Program Evaluations**

In an effort to strengthen the academic experience of students, NYU Accra focused on three objectives:

- Ensuring that areas of concerns identified by students through course evaluations are addressed by working in collaboration with lecturers.
- Increased placement opportunities for students participating in internships, with the anticipation of more public health students enrolling at NYU Accra.
- Encouraging lecturers to build co-curricular opportunities, such as visiting local sites, into their courses as a way of enabling students to experience first-hand areas of study.

NYU Accra students reported, for the most part, that the semester was moderately challenging, when compared to other sites. The Site Director attributed that to the work that they had done with lecturers to increase the number of homework assignments and class readings that students have in preparation for each week. In addition to co-curricular opportunities, lecturers were encouraged to invite guest lecturers to the classroom when appropriate.

The Committee discussed the new CORE course, Cultures and Contexts: The Black Atlantic and its reception by students. Many students reported that it was the best course that they had taken at NYU Accra and at NYU. The hope was that in future semesters, NYU Accra would have a technology enhanced classroom which would allow students and faculty in both Accra and New York to engage and interact.

The Committee reviewed the proposed thematic grouping of courses by categories, proposing additional categories be added to the current offerings, such as Humanities or Human Rights and Development. By having more thematic groupings of courses, as well as cross-listing courses under multiple categories, students would be in a better position to identify courses that align with their many academic interests.

### **Data Packet**

Janet Alperstein went through the data packet, noting that there were a few visiting students to NYU Accra. Janet offered to meet with faculty and departments individually to discuss the packet with more depth, and to address any questions regarding the fall/spring imbalance, student enrollment based on major and semester of enrollment, or recruitment possibilities. Janet suggested that students were more likely to enroll in specific courses while studying away

when encouraged by faculty, and gave the example of NYU Paris' Director who promoted Computer Science and Math courses to students during their classes.

The committee discussed the low enrollment in the Africana Studies minor, what drove students to the minor, and how best to facilitate students' interest in declaring the minor. The committee recognized that a better job of marketing the minor could be accomplished and in doing so they could encourage students to take courses at NYU Accra to fulfill requirements.

The committee agreed that refining course clusters can help guide students toward courses in NYU Accra that could complete the Africana Studies minor. Since the interdisciplinary nature of the Africana Studies minor often required students to take theoretical courses in other departments, clustering topics-based courses by categories in Accra could help better position students to make these connections. The objective would be to have a minor that could be completed in NYU Abu Dhabi, Shanghai and Accra. Therefore, offering more opportunities for schools to co-sponsor courses at NYU Accra linked to an internship was recommended.

### **Next Steps**

The committee will review the current list of minors across schools that can be completed at NYU Accra and continue to suggest thematic grouping of courses that make the most sense in Accra.