

## **NYU Accra Advisory Committee Meeting Annotated Agenda**

Wednesday, April 25, 2018 11:00 am - 12:15 pm

Soho Conference Room (Bobst 1244)

### **In Attendance**

- Rosalind Fredericks (Gallatin - Chair)
- Akosua Anyidoho (NYU Accra, Site Director)
- Elisabeth King (International Education & Peace and Conflict Studies)
- Robyn d'Avignon (FAS - History)
- Jay Gotlieb (Steinhardt - Teaching & Learning)
- Renee Blake (FAS-SCA & Linguistics)
- John Gershman (Wagner)
- Frankie Edozien (FAS-Journalism)
- Jennifer Morgan (Social and Cultural Analysis, FAS)
- Esi Sutherland-Addy (NYU Accra)
- Hannah Bruckner (NYU AD)
- Gbenga Ogedegbe (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Nyoka Joseph (Global Programs)

### **Introductions & Announcements**

Jennifer Morgan, Chair of Social Cultural Analysis (SCA) and faculty of History was introduced to the Committee.

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

Nancy Morrison drew the committee's attention to the memo that Linda Mills sent to all faculty on March 8th, titled "Updates on Study Away and Academic Developments at the Global Sites."

Nancy informed the committee that it was a record breaking year with over 4,000 students studying away. Almost 80% of respondents to the admitted student survey report that they plan to study away as an undergraduate, while only 45% of the Class of 2017 report actually having studying away. Global Programs wants to be responsive to students who seek to study away in greater numbers.

Nancy commented that students continued to be focused on the costs of studying abroad, the availability of scholarships, and the ability to continue degree progress. Although housing options and living costs abroad are sometimes more affordable at sites than at Washington Square at some locations (e.g. Shanghai), the challenge remains with getting information to students and making studying away both affordable and responsive to their curricular needs.

## **Site Director's Report**

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

### **Site Highlights**

- A symposium in collaboration with NYU's College of Global Public Health and Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra was held earlier in the semester. The event was a success with a large turnout of students and guests.
- In an effort to improve the information technology infrastructure and connectivity at NYU Accra, NYU's Vice President for Information Technology & Chief Information Officer, Len Peters, along with members of the IT team held a meeting at NYU Accra with stakeholders.
- A celebration of cultural diversity was featured prominently this semester, with planned student activities, events during Ally week, and a trip to a traditional community in the Ashanti region.

### **Curricular Updates**

- NYU Accra continues to work on local engagement, including different ways of integrating local Ghanaian students from various institutions into classes.
- The inclusion of co-curricular trips as part of coursework continues to be a welcome addition for students.

The committee discussed the trend of lower enrollments in summer and full-year programs at NYU Accra. The committee discussed how to better advertise NYU Accra by working with departments to provide students with information earlier in the site selection process. The committee also discussed how NYU Accra and the committee can further support faculty members who are developing J-term and summer programs in Accra, and how to best leverage the resources available at NYU Accra.

## **Program Evaluations**

Akosua noted that the overall program evaluations for NYU Accra were positive, with 99% of students who attended NYU Accra stating they would recommend the program to a friend. Akosua discussed whether it makes sense to make the language component question in the evaluation optional for sites where taking a language isn't mandatory like NYU Accra.

NYU Accra is looking at ways to improve the development of faculty. This semester, four relatively new lecturers were selected to participate in a training led by an experienced NYU Accra lecturer, which addressed best practices in classroom management and delivery, student engagement and types of assignments administered. The training had positive reviews from the participants.

The committee discussed the difficulty students have enrolling for two semesters at NYU Accra due to limited course offerings. However, a few students have figured out ways to attend multiple semesters. The committee discussed that in their respective departments the faculty are content with the course syllabi and that at NYU Accra many students engage with experiential learning and internships in addition to regular coursework.

### **Data Packet**

Janet Alperstein went through the data packet and noted an increase in Juniors enrolling at NYU Accra. Janet also offered to meet with faculty and departments individually to discuss student enrollment based on major and semester of enrollment.

### **Curricular Updates**

- This fall, more than half of the students have registered for a new Core course at NYU Accra - Cultures and Context: The Black Atlantic.
- In fall 2019 a new course, Foundations of Scientific Inquiry is scheduled to be introduced. This course will focus on quantitative research with data from the region.
- NYU Abu Dhabi's Social Sciences faculty are spearheading an Economics Development theory course.

### **Next Steps**

- The committee will continue to explore how enrollment at NYU Accra can be bolstered during the summer and academic year.
- In an effort to help students better identify courses that count towards their major and minor at NYU Accra, the committee agreed to review the thematic clustering of courses proposed by Global Academic, beginning with Teaching & Learning, Journalism & Creative Arts, Public Health, and History.