

## **NYU Tel Aviv Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

*Sunday, February 4th, 2018*

*4:30-5:45pm IST (Tel Aviv)/9:30-10:45am EST(New York)*

*NYU Tel Aviv Academic Center, 17 Brandeis Street - Video Conference Room (Room 203)*

### **Attendees** (\*Denotes joined remotely)

- David Abramson\* (College of Global Public Health)
- Janet Alperstein (Assistant Vice President, Global Programs)
- Zlatko Bacic (FAS-Chemistry)
- Maria Christodoulou\* (Academics, Global Programs)
- Ilana Goldberg (NYU Tel Aviv)
- Andy Hamilton (University President)
- Benjamin Hary (NYU Tel Aviv Site Director and FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Philip Kennedy (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Linda Mills (Vice Chancellor, Global Programs and University Life)
- Nancy Morrison (Vice President, Global Programs)
- Sunder Narayanan\* (Stern)
- Marianne Petit\* (Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Network Academic Planning)
- Edan Raviv (NYU Tel Aviv)
- Rabbi Yehuda Sarna (Executive Director, Bronfman Center for Jewish Student Life)
- Mark Siegal (FAS-Biology)
- Peter Voltz (NYU Tandon)
- Ronald Zweig\* (Chair, FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)

### **Introductions**

The spring SSAC meeting was scheduled to take place locally in Tel Aviv to coincide with President Hamilton's visit to Tel Aviv to visit the site and speak at the TAU-NYU-NYUTA Symposium *New Horizons in Chemistry: From Fundamentals to Applications*. This allowed for the President to see the new academic space and attend the SSAC meeting in-person during his visit. The meeting started off with introductions of participants in the room and on the phone.

### **Site Director Report**

Benny Hary, Site Director, began his report by focusing on the site's identity. He noted the site's identity includes a focus on diversity which was on display with the morning's visit to Haifa. Dr. Hary talked about the record spring enrollments; while this is a welcome development, he cautioned that too much of an enrollment increase could alter Tel Aviv's identity as a small site. The small size of the site lends itself to creating intimate and challenging class environments, which more closely resemble graduate seminars than undergraduate lectures. Local engagement is another characteristic important to the site's identity. Dr. Hary mentioned

three conferences that the site is hosting, TAU-NYU-NYUTA Chemistry Symposium: New Horizons in Chemistry: From Fundamentals to Applications, Global Network for Advanced Research for Jewish Studies Colloquium, and the Israeli Association for the Study of Language and Society Annual Conference.

The presentation continued with a focus on NYUTA's academic values, which include the ability for faculty to provide more mentoring in a small environment especially in the sciences, as well as maximizing experiential learning. Dr. Hary mentioned the four main academic clusters the site would like to build upon: science and health, business and innovation, social sciences, and Middle Eastern and Judaic studies. The success of the biology pathway was mentioned and how this could serve as a model of a well organized and implemented academic pathway. The site director suggested that the potential for future growth is grounded in the business and innovation area.

Edan Raviv, Assistant Director for Academics, presented on the Business and Innovation Studio program which is designed to deepen and display the site's identity in the business and innovation area. Dr. Raviv noted the program is anchored in the business curriculum, however, it cuts across the academic clusters. The program connects students with industry leaders, offers alumni mentorship, and has a strong connection to NYU's entrepreneurship ecosystem and the Leslie eLab (and its director, Frank Rimalovski). During the presentation, President Hamilton asked what the ideal number of student participants is and Dr. Raviv suggested that they would like to see half of the students at the site participate in the Innovation Lab.

Dr. Hary continued to discuss site activities related to the University's priorities. He mentioned that equity, diversity and inclusion are woven into the fabric of the program. The site has a three language policy on all official signs and some communications. The student kitchen is now a Kosher-Halal-Vegan kitchen. The site participates and celebrates Ally Week. Beginning with the Spring 2018 semester, Dr. Hary plans to bring facilitators from the Beit-HaGefen Arab Jewish Culture Center in Haifa to help with various diversity/inclusion related activities. There are also plans to offer more activities to facilitate local immersion especially for students studying Arabic.

### **Site Evaluations**

Linda Mills introduced this part of the meeting. She began by explaining the history of the recent site evaluations and involvement of NYUNY faculty in revisions to the current instrument. Dr. Hary mentioned that overall the results from the program evaluations were positive. However, one challenge the site faces during the fall semester is that the results are from a small sample. This is especially true of the course evaluations. He mentioned two changes they are implementing to improve students' academic experience based on feedback received from the program evaluations:

- encourage the local lecturers to offer more critical and diverse assignments and provide more feedback to students
- schedule class visits and formalize peer evaluation among the lecturers

### **New Curricular Offerings**

- *College of Global Public Health (CGPH)* - David Abramson noted that 16 graduate students from NYUNY studied away in the new academic center in J-term 2018 and reported the students had a positive experience in the new space. He also mentioned that CGPH is looking towards developing a deeper partnership with NYUTA and the Director of Undergraduate Studies, Joyce Moon Howard, has been working closely with the site to ensure a smooth launch of the new undergraduate course offering, *Health and Society in a Global Context*, which has 5 students enrolled in it for this spring. Additionally, the school is anticipating a new faculty member with deep ties in Israel to join NYUNY CGPH faculty to head up Biostats which CGPH hopes will also lead to stronger ties with and resources for the site.
- *Stern* - Sunder Narayanan mentioned the addition of FinTech to the site's business course offerings and noted this is an important course for NYU. Stern's chair and the Dean's Office have recently approved the course and it is expected to be offered beginning in Fall 2018. It is not clear yet whether this course has prerequisites but the course is expected to attract Stern and NYU Shanghai Business and Finance majors.
- *CORE* - First ever CORE at NYUTA will debut in the fall (provided the course attracts enough students).
- *History in the Headlines* - A new 2-credit course has been proposed in response to the University's priority regarding affordability. The course will be taught by Dr. Hary and Dr. Raviv with guest lecturers by local instructors. The site first offered a 2-credit course this semester with visiting faculty member from NYUNY, Yael Feldman. The course initially only had two students enrolled but picked up another five students during orientation after the site director promoted the course.
- *Chemistry* - Zlatko Bacic presented on the revised chemistry pathway which is set to begin in Spring 2019 and will target spring sophomores to study away at NYU Tel Aviv. As part of the revised pathway, the site will continue to offer CHEM-UA 9226 Organic Chemistry II in the spring and will add CHEM-UA 9997 Independent Study and Research (previously offered in fall) and PHYS-UA 9012 General Physics II (with lab) in the spring to attract more off-track biology majors, neuroscience majors, and pre-health/pre-med students as there is also a College of Global Public Health offering in the spring semester.
- *Emerging Media* - Marianne Petit provided a brief history about the emergence of Interactive Media Arts (IMA) at NYU Shanghai which she noted became so popular that Interactive Media and Business (IMB) was added as well. NYU Tel Aviv quickly became a draw to majors given the course offerings and the expansion of internships to emerging media. Ilana Goldberg, NYU Tel Aviv Internship Coordinator, then gave a brief presentation on the expansion of internships offerings which now include more business and arts placements. Marianne also discussed the strong ties to the alumni community

(graduates from the Tisch ITP program) in Tel Aviv and how these relationships can be leveraged to build the Emerging media program further.

### **J-Term and Summer Programs**

Dr. Hary talked about the J-term programs and anticipated summer programs at the site. The site hosted J-term programs from CGPH (16 students), Silver School of Social Work (14 students), Physical Therapy (7 students), and Steinhardt Global honors program focused on dance (17 students). The CGPH program focused on terrorism preparedness and disaster mental health. Dr. Hary helped secure a prominent speaker from TAU to present to the students. In addition, the students visited a health security technology company in the northern part of the country and attended an international research conference. There are two anticipated summer programs, one from Steinhardt's Nutrition and Food Studies Department on emerging food and safety and the other a CAS summer program.

During the discussion on short term programming, Philip Kennedy commented about the need for more CORE offerings at the sites. Linda Mills and Janet Alperstein explained that the demand for CORE at the sites outweighs the current offerings, and Linda asked Philip to be a partner in advancing this topic on the Square.

### **Data Packet**

Janet Alperstein briefly discussed the information in the data packet that was provided as a hard copy and in electronic format to the committee members. Janet also offered to schedule meetings with stakeholders from the schools and departments to discuss this information and specific pathways in more detail and answer any questions.

### **Other Items**

Ron Zweig asked about the flags and signs for the new academic space. Dr. Hary explained that this is in process of being finalized. Dr. Zweig noted the importance of having the NYU symbols present.

Linda Mills spoke about the deep engagement of the NYU faculty to build, develop and reimagine the site as well as the strong staffing present at the site under the Benny Hary's leadership. The group also acknowledged the previous work done by Ron Zweig in building the site and academic offerings. President Hamilton remarked that he was proud that this was the first SSAC he attended and a high bar has been set for his attendance at future SSAC meetings. The meeting ended with the showing of two short videos, one about Innovation and the other about biology program.

### **Action Items**

Specific items were not identified.