

NYU Prague Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 11, 2018

9:30-10:45am New York/ (5:30-6:45pm Abu Dhabi/3:30-4:45pm Prague)

383 Lafayette St, Room C-08

Attendees:

In Person

- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Tyra Liebmann (Global Programs)
- Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt-MCC, Advisory Committee Chair)
- Eliot Borenstein (FAS-Russian and Slavic Studies)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- John Robertson (NYU Shanghai)
- Jiri Pehe (Site Director)
- David Schroeder (Steinhardt)
- Kevin Kuhlke (Tisch)
- Larry Wolff (FAS-European Studies)

Phone/Video Conference

- Gwyneth Bravo (NYUAD)
- Matteo Marciano (NYUAD-Music)

Introductions and Announcements

The meeting commenced with introductions of committee members. Eliot Borenstein made an announcement about the March 8 memorandum from Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life Professor Linda G. Mills, titled “Updates on Study Away and Academic Developments at the Global Sites” and some of the topics discussed within. This week was Site Director Week, and [Global Conversations](#) occurred in New York. The event was successful and will be taking place in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai shortly.

Eliot went on to say that there was a record breaking number of students studying away this year, about 4,000. Across all schools, 80% of incoming freshmen indicate they are thinking about study away. There is top-level discussion with schools about how to bridge the gap between students thinking of studying away and students that actually study away.

Site Director Report and Program Evaluations

Jiri Pehe, Site Director at NYU Prague, went through his report of the site. Highlights include:

- January trips to Prague with faculty were very successful. Many of the faculty had never seen the site before. Thanks to all involved in organizing this.
- There was discussion of the potential to bring new types of courses to Prague, such as forensic anthropology or core foundations scientific inquiry. With connections to existing labs at other institutions in Prague, some of these new courses could be possible.

- Gallatin is looking to expand their course offerings in Prague. As an interdisciplinary site with a lot of course offerings, there is potential to tailor Prague courses more to the needs of Gallatin students.
- There is a new course, Music Education, which might become a required course for Music students.
- There is potential to bring FAMU and music students together with a new course in film scoring.
- Numbers in Journalism are declining gradually at Prague, but may be reflecting the decline in Journalism students at the Washington Square campus.
- Last semester, the number of STEM students dropped, but they are back up to a larger number for the fall.
- The music program is doing well and expanding; MCC is also a large Prague program.
- Changes to the timeline for on-campus recruitment of Stern's business and economics majors for internships (which often lead to jobs following graduation) has been moved up earlier in a Stern student's career (spring semester of sophomore year). This change will likely lead Stern students to study away in fall versus the past.

Program evaluations were then discussed. Highlights include:

- Using evaluations to improve various courses.
- Meeting with students has proven helpful in developing strategies to improve courses and programming.
- Challenges include keeping up with connecting with students as they continue jumping to newer technology and social media. NYU Prague tries to engage with students at their technology level, using the Prague Now blog, the PragueCast podcast series, the NYU Prague Facebook group, and updating the NYU Prague website with new information.
- Continuing to have a healthy program of extracurricular activities, trips, panels, etc. Conferences, talks, are much better attended by students at beginning of semester than toward the end.
- Talks that are for audiences beyond NYU Prague tend to be very well attended.
- NYU Prague will be hosting the Forum on Education Abroad conference in Fall 2018.

Data Packet

The committee went through the data packet, which includes enrollment trends at the site and within the different courses offered. Highlights include:

- Prague doesn't have much of a fall/spring enrollment discrepancy compared to other sites, but there was still some discussion on how to continue to address that difference and what strategies can be employed to manage the imbalance.
- Roma in Central East Europe: Ethnographic and Historical Overview Of A People Without A State - ANTH-UA 9200 has grown in popularity and can count for Stern and Steinhardt credit. There will be a related panel at the Forum conference in the Fall.