

NYU Madrid Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 12, 2018

11:00am-12:15pm New York/(7:00-8:15pm Abu Dhabi/5:00-6:15pm Madrid)
383 Lafayette St, Room C-06

Attendees

- Lorena Llosa (Steinhardt – Teaching & Learning) - Chair
- Rob Lubar (NYU Madrid, Site Director)
- Lorena Llosa (Committee Co-Chair, Steinhardt – Teaching & Learning)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Neal Beck (CAS – Politics)
- Ascension Mejorado (Liberal Studies)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Marianne Petit (ACV Global Academic Planning; Tisch - ITP)
- Sarah Pierce (CAS – Spanish & Portuguese)
- John Robertson (NYU Shanghai)
- Jeff Timmons (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Zeb Tortorici (CAS - Spanish & Portuguese)
- Alejandro Martí (Global Programs)

NYU Madrid Spring 2018 SSAC Notes

Intros & Announcements

Lorena Llosa opened the meeting with committee member introductions.

Marianne Petit highlighted elements of the “Updates on Study Away and Academic Developments at the Global Sites” memo emailed to faculty on March 8th.

- Last year was another record-breaking year, with over 4,000 students studying away
- Across all schools and including Summer and January Term programs, 45 percent of NYU bachelor’s degree recipients in the Class of 2017 studied away, up from 43 percent and 40 percent the two previous years
- 80% of incoming freshmen indicate that they are thinking about studying abroad. Global Programs wants to be responsive to students who seek to study away in greater numbers

The committee was encouraged to urge colleagues within their respective departments to spend some time reviewing the memo.

Site Director Report

Rob Lubar announced that the 2018-19 academic year will be the last of his five-year tenure as NYU Madrid Site Director. He expressed that he looks upon this time as the best five years of his life, is leaving with a full heart, and is excited for the site’s potential going forward. Rob is proud of the sure footing that NYU Madrid currently stands on and is convinced it is prepared to make great strides in the future. Rob anticipates staying on until early-July 2019 and working with the committee and others to train a new director.

Nancy Morrison and the committee applauded Rob for his transformational work and the outstanding results he achieved during his time at NYU Madrid. The community and collegial atmosphere at the site, among both students and staff, can be directly attributed to his efforts and example. Rob, in turn, thanked the committee for its support in his and the site's success over the past few years and into the coming year of transition.

Enrollment

- Enrollment continues to increase. Fall has been growing nicely; the Fall/Spring imbalance has been reduced.
- Students are enrolling from a wide variety of schools with good representation from smaller programs.
- While the new academic center will have a maximum capacity of 270 students, a more realistic initial enrollment target of 200 students will ensure optimal staff, housing, curricular and co-curricular support. Careful management of the site's growth is critical to its success.
- In the last two years, the site has noticed a substantial increase in the number of advanced/heritage Spanish speakers. This positive trend provides a boost in enrollment for the content courses taught in Spanish. Continuing to appeal to heritage speakers and students eligible for advanced Spanish language course remains a priority.

Curricular Updates

- The Expressive Cultures course has seen strong enrollment. This was made possible by the Spanish department which relinquished one of their language courses.
- Sustained decreases in graduate enrollments, mirroring a nationwide trend across the U.S., have made continuing with two graduate programs prohibitive. All involved expressed a hope of seeing them revived.

Student Life

- **Diversity, Equity & Inclusion:** The NYU Madrid student body is a relatively diverse group, typically attracting students from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. The POC Group, Student Government, Latino, and Asian student groups have all collaborated to host dinners to discuss and process the differences in their experiences while studying abroad. More thought is being given to LGBTQ programming which has been less robust in recent semesters.
- **Housing:** Students love homestays and have a clear understanding of the rules and expectations. The students living in the residence halls continue to complain about residence hall security cameras and overbearing security guards. Other potential residences are being considered in order to diversify offerings. One of the benefits of the current residence hall is that it also accommodates Spanish students and others studying in Madrid who are citizens from throughout the EU, offering NYU students the ability to connect with other students from outside of NYU's program.

Community Engagement

- King Juan Carlos I Inaugural Lecture – the talk was a huge success, featuring Philippe de Montebello and Miguel Falomir, and took place in a packed lecture hall in the Museo del Prado. Next year's lecture will be at the San Fernando academy. The new academic center location is expected to serve this public facing role even better.

Staffing

- Megan Jones retired at the end of the Fall 2017 semester. Alejandro Perez was hired to take her place as Housing and Student Life Coordinator.
- Talia Mendel began working as the new Wellness Counselor in December 2017.

New Academic Center Transition & Expansion

- Rob is planning to have a retreat with the NYU Madrid academic team this summer to work through transition planning and assess strategic possibilities. The priorities are to:
 - address historic under enrollment of certain courses,
 - strategize on how to best serve new constituencies,
 - develop a plan for space usage,
 - identify staffing and resource needs as well as where efficiency can be improved, and
 - develop a plan for accommodating a freshman group in the near future.

The committee discussed how to accommodate anticipated growth and new constituencies with as much flexibility as possible. NYU London was mentioned as a potential point of reference. The site is exploring the possibility of having faculty teach twice a week and move away from 3 hour time blocks for classes, which are especially challenging for freshmen.

Another priority is to work on making academic clusters or pathways more visible. The summer planning group will make sure that clustering, particularly students' perceptions of clustering, is an integral part of their efforts to tell the story of NYU Madrid.

The Spanish department will soon be following the French department model of offering several embedded minors. This may be appealing to students interested in a minor that is not simply Spanish Language. GLS has been offering double majors and this another option to consider.

The committee agreed that maintaining a strong public programming presence is important for NYU Madrid and will enhance opportunities for students to engage meaningfully with their host community.

Program Evaluations

Rob noted that program evaluations continue to demonstrate strong overall satisfaction levels. Some students expressed that the academics were too rigorous in their evaluations. Overall, however, the students seem very happy. The new academic center will offer tremendous potential to engage students in a more robust way.

Data Packet

Janet Alperstein went through the data packet and noted that NYU Madrid is hosting students from a wide variety of schools with good representation from smaller programs. The number of Juniors enrolled is on the rise and NYU Shanghai was acknowledged as a major contributor to this trend. Another positive trend is that many students are adding majors and minors in Spanish language after they return from the semester or year in Madrid.

The committee discussed how some departments are enrolling many students, who are not necessarily well served by the available course options. For example, politics students enroll in relatively large numbers, but have only a few course options available to them. The committee will explore co-sponsoring opportunities to begin to offer courses that appeal to students on interdisciplinary grounds, while ensuring those potential courses respect disciplinary integrity.

Next Steps

The Committee will continue to explore opportunities for clustering, both to encourage and facilitate creative and interdisciplinary academic planning for students and to further define the site's identity.