

**NYU Washington, D.C., Site Specific Advisory Committee**  
*Meeting of Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 9:30 a.m. -10:45 a.m.*  
*383 Lafayette, #C08*

**MINUTES**

Present: Janet Alperstein (Global Programs), Peter Diamond (Liberal Studies), Patrick Egan (Committee Chair; FAS - Politics), Jessica Green (FAS - Environmental Studies), Nancy Morrison (Global Programs), Chris Nicolussi (Global Programs), Maura Pollard (Global Programs), Matthew Santirocco (Faculty Director, NYU Washington, DC) Michael Ulrich (Site Director, NYU Washington DC), Michael Williams (FAS - International Relations)

Absent: Julie Anne Avina (College of Global Public Health), Kerry Barrett (NYU Abu Dhabi), Christian Haefke (NYU Abu Dhabi), Victoria Kiechel (NYU, Washington DC), Maria Montoya (FAS - History), Gbenga Ogedegbe (Global Programs), Adam Ramey (NYU Abu Dhabi), Charles Seife (FAS - Journalism)

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**1. Memo: Updates on Study Away and Academic Developments at the Global Sites**

- Nancy Morrison shared highlights from the memo which went out on March 8:
  - Last year was another record-breaking year, with over 4,000 students studying away.
  - Across all schools and including summer and J-Term programs, 45% of NYU bachelor's degree recipients in the Class of 2017 studied away, up from 43% and 40% the two previous years.
  - 80% of incoming freshmen indicate that they are thinking about studying abroad.
  - Andy Hamilton is beginning discussions with schools to see how we can facilitate students' ability to study abroad and close that gap.
- Most recent Global Conversation for Faculty took place on April 9 – we had a lot of positive feedback. We felt that attendees wanted more information on programs for STEM and the Arts.
  - We should think of ways that we as members of the SSACs can get our faculty colleagues to go to these events.

**2. Spring 2018 Site Director Update**

Michael Ulrich reported on developments in curriculum, enrollment, University priorities, student activities, and faculty hiring at NYU DC. Some highlights:

*Staffing*

- A new Wellness Counselor is starting the week of April 23.
- The Residential Life Administrators have been fabulous this year. Two are coming back next year, and they are very enthusiastic.
- Tom McIntyre has a new staff member assisting him.
- Overall, the staff is amazing and the site is vibrant.

#### *Course and Lecturer Evaluations*

- The final fall 2017 course evaluations were very strong.
- For fall 2017, one returning lecturer was connected with a faculty member from the sponsoring academic unit for pedagogical support. As a result, final course evaluations improved tremendously. (Overall instructor rating rose to 4.7, and overall course rating increased to 4.3)

#### *Global Leadership Scholars Program*

- Eighteen Leadership Scholars students enrolled for spring 2018 (three AD, five SH, and ten NY). The final fall 2017 program evaluations were very strong overall.
- In fall 2017, we issued Certificates of Completion to the Scholars for the first time.

#### *Graduate Student Programs*

- The Global Research Initiative has received outstanding evaluations; Lecturer Vicky Kiechel (Environmental Studies) is the onsite advisor for the summer dissertation workshop and is doing a great job at mentoring these students.
- The Stern Executive MBA is full-steam-ahead to launch in August.

#### *J-Term Course*

- In January 2018, Pat Egan taught *U.S. Politics and Policy in 2018 and Beyond: A Firsthand Experience in Our Nation's Capital*. The course received outstanding evaluations from the 34 enrolled students.

### **3. Academic Director Report**

Matthew Santirocco provided further information on academic initiatives at the site:

#### *DC Leadership Scholars Program*

- We are trying to identify additional students who can benefit from this program, but who may not be aware of it or who may not be planning to study at a global site for financial or cultural reasons – e.g., First Generation students, Pell recipients, MLK Scholars, and HEOP students (to name just a few). These students sometimes need to work and many have never been abroad. DC could be an attractive site alternative for them.
- Two donors have recently given us expendable (i.e., non-endowed) money to provide additional, substantial aid to students who need it and are admitted to the Leadership cohort. This aid could go up to \$9.5K, which, in many cases, would relieve a student of one semester's loan burden.
- This additional aid, (which is unique to NYU DC because of the generosity of donors), aligns well with NYU's Affordability Initiative.
  - Another link to affordability is that students who take J-Term courses do not have to pay for housing during that period if they are already in the housing system.
- Given the current political climate, and our effort to attract these additional and different students to the Leadership cohort, we are also exploring ways to enhance the program's focus on social justice, advocacy, and the preparation of students to lead social change.

#### *Fundraising and Site Identity*

- We are also exploring further gifts targeted not just to Leadership Scholars, but to all students at the DC site.

- If these efforts are successful, NYU DC could provide a model for fundraising on behalf of other global sites.
- Also, if successful, the entire site, not just the Leadership program, will increasingly align with three of the University's top priorities, viz., Affordability, Student Success, and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

#### **4. Data and Course Evaluations**

Janet Alperstein reminded committee members that she is always happy to come into schools or departments to present this data in more detail.

##### *Enrollment and Pathways*

- For AY2017-18, DC had higher enrollment in the fall than in the spring.
- Michael, Matthew and Janet will be meeting with Carol Brandt to see why attendance from NYU AD might have fallen.
  - Adam Ramey teaches American Politics at Abu Dhabi – he is a good person to provide information about why AD students would want to come to DC.
  - Maybe we can do a survey of students that came from AD to see what their experience was in DC. They have generally reported that they had positive experiences, but could there be operational issues?
  - AD students are more likely to choose NYC over DC because there are more courses available. However, non-US citizens are more likely to get internships in DC than NYC.
  - Politics is the first or second largest major in AD.
  - The US political climate could be affecting student choice, as could perceived immigration issues.
  - We should market DC as more than the “seat of the US government.”
- Are there other units that we need to identify which would benefit from putting a pathway in DC (Tisch; Arts Administration)?
  - Could we suggest that different units come together to look at how Stern's program is working in DC?
- Staff and faculty at DC are among the most diverse at the global sites.

##### *Course Evaluations*

- We have been working actively to raise evaluations that are low. Talking to the sponsoring unit is key.
- Onsite lecturers are thrilled to have collaboration with units on the square.
- We want to have a pilot in place for fall 2018 evaluations for how to deal consistently with courses that are rated lower than 4.
- For fall 2016 and spring 2017, DC had a relatively high number of upper-year students who said that their experience was not as academically rigorous as other sites. This rating recovered in fall 2017 to exceed other sites. The NYU DC LS students generally evaluate this question similarly to other sites.

##### *Curriculum Updates*

- Is there a curricular possibility for a social media course in DC? There is one in Prague.
- Are there ideas for two-credit courses at DC – e.g., once-a-week workshops in developing social media strategies? There are firms in DC that specialize in using social media for advocacy. We could pair such a course with an internship.

- Upper-year students almost always have an internship. If a new two-credit class is added to the curriculum as proposed by Carol Brandt, we should consider surveying alums to see if they would have enrolled in one of these courses.
- Marvin Astrada's (Politics/History) podcasts have been really well received.

## 5. Fall 2017 Program Evaluations

Initiatives and updates in response to feedback from the fall 2017 Program Evaluations:

- For spring 2018, 24 of 26 upper-year students and four of 37 LS students enrolled in the four-credit *Internship and Fieldwork Seminar*; sixteen of 37 LS first-year students enrolled in the two-credit *Fieldwork Seminar* taught by the Site Director. This indicates that they want internships. Some dropped out because their workload was too heavy.
- For fall 2018, Matthew and others helped to develop a two-credit elective course for LS students, "Explore DC, Adore DC" to encourage engagement with DC resources and institutions. Hopefully this will help students make a more informed decision about spring activities (e.g., do they want an internship?).
- The spring 2018 faculty orientation, led by Alicia Gleason (Academic Writing Specialist), included discussions on making the most of student evaluations.
- We continue to collaborate with staff from other Semester-in-DC programs to organize events that connect our students with one another.

## 6. Recruitment and Enrollment

- We need a more systematic way to promote pathways at DC each semester.
- It would be great for advisors, etc. to come down to DC to see what goes on there and understand the identity, rhythm, and feel of the site.
- Participating departments need to identify students that would be appropriate for DC.
  - Politics students get emails about DC, but need individual contacts in departments to tell them why the site could be good for them.
  - Could departments put information about DC pathways on their websites?
- Certain students could be attracted because of special aspects of DC – public policy, etc. It offers both a pre-professional and an academic track.
  - Should we concentrate less on the global aspects of the site and more on the pre-professional opportunities – e.g., promoting DC as a place for internships and prelaw studies?
  - The Leadership Scholars program is good for helping students enhance their employability.

## 7. Other Topics

- The following Committee members will be moving on:
  - Jessica Green (Environmental Studies) is moving to Toronto.
  - Tony Bertelli (Wagner) is on sabbatical for 2018.