

NYU Florence Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

*Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 10:15-11:30am New York / 4:15-5:30pm Florence)
Bobst Library, President's Conference Room (PCR)*

Attendees:

Deb Willis - Faculty Chair (Tisch)
David Forgacs (FAS - Italian Studies)
Ann Morning (FAS – Sociology)
Gail Segal (Tisch)
Brendan Hogan (Liberal Studies)
Mosette Broderick (FAS – Art History)
Kevin Thom (FAS – Economics)
Rebecca Morton (FAS - Politics; NYU Abu Dhabi)
Bruce Edelstein (NYU Florence)
Virginia Cox (NYU Florence)
Ellyn Toscano (NYU Florence)
Francesco Arneodo (NYU Abu Dhabi)
Eliot Borenstein (Senior Academic Convenor, Global Programs)
Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
Tyra Leibman (Global Programs)
Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
Zara Bohan (Global Programs)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Mills from the Office of Global Programs announced that Ellyn Toscano, Site Director of NYU Florence, will be stepping down later this year. Ellyn has been at NYU Florence since 2004. Linda thanked Ellyn for all of her incredible work during her 14 years as Site Director of NYU Florence, which has thrived under her leadership.

Virginia Cox, Academic Director of NYU Florence, will also be stepping down in June 2018. Linda thanked Virginia for the many curricular innovations during her tenure and noted that it has been period of academic and scholarly development.

NYU is in the process of identifying new leadership for NYU Florence. It was later announced that Larry Wolff, Professor of History and Director of the Center for European and Mediterranean Studies and Executive Director of the Remarque Institute at FAS and Perri Klass, Professor of Journalism at FAS and Professor of Pediatrics at NYU's Medical School have been named as co-Site Directors at NYU Florence, starting in 2019.

NYU will be establishing a programmatic presence in Los Angeles that will serve as a platform for students from multiple schools studying the arts and emerging media to take a few courses, complete internships and develop industry connections. Building off an existing Tisch program, the new program will be small (approximately 50 students) and will proceed with an affordability-minded approach. The anticipated launch will be Spring 2019; several departments have expressed interest in this development and are participating in developing the curriculum.

Last year was another record-breaking year for NYU with over 4,000 students studying away. Across all schools, and including all summer and January-term programs, 45% of NYU's bachelor's degree recipients in the Class of 2017 studied away.

Approximately 80% of incoming NYU freshmen express interest in studying away when they arrive on campus. We will spend the next few years identifying barriers to students studying away and bridge the gap between the 80% of students who express an interest in studying away and the 45% who actually do so.

SITE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ellyn Toscano (NYU Florence Site Director) discussed the status of university priorities and provided an overview of cultural and co-curricular activities at the site.

NYU Florence continues to prioritize Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). The DEI Committee meets weekly to discuss campus programming, and to discuss and generate responses to any community concerns.

With regards to Affordability, NYU Florence is greatly expanding their textbook loan program to assist students with financial need.

Ellyn highlighted a number of opportunities for students including the option of serving on a jury for the NYU Florence award for Best Short Film at the Middle East Film Festival in Florence, participating in a global student dialogue with students from NYU London on student activism, and expanding the number and range of internships available to NYU Florence students.

Ellyn also announced that long-time NYU Florence faculty member Bruce Edelstein has been asked to serve on the University of Florence doctoral college. In addition to being a very prestigious honor, this reinforces NYU Florence's ties with the institution on a regional level as this is the body that provides oversight for the PhD program at the Universities of Florence, Pisa, and Sienna. He is also curating a major exhibition, which will be opening next month at Palazzo Pitti in Florence and will

later travel to the Morgan Library in September 2018 and the Getty Center in Los Angeles, California.

ACADEMIC REPORT & CURRICULAR UPDATES

Virginia Cox (NYU Florence Academic Director) reviewed the academic report and noted several curricular developments.

In partnership with Italian professor, Renata Carloni, NYU Florence will focus on incorporating song lyrics more intentionally into the curriculum of their Italian courses.

NYU Florence professor and Renaissance theatre specialist, Eric Nicholson is organizing a performance of *Clorilli*, a sixteenth century drama written by a woman writer, which was unknown until 2010. The work has been translated into English and abridged and will be performed by student actors on campus. A professional set designer will be preparing the set for the performance scheduled for Friday May 11.

A new 2-credit course will be introduced this Fall for the Business of Entertainment, Media and Technology (BEMT) minor, a joint program with Stern, Tisch, and Steinhardt.

DATA PACKET

Janet Alperstein (Global Programs) provided an overview of the data packet (see materials) and reminded committee members that she is happy to present the information to individual departments or schools if they want to learn more.

Janet explained that there are a number of students who would normally be considered sophomores but who do not have quite enough credits to officially be considered sophomores. This group accounts for why the numbers of sophomores might look relatively low when referring to the Undergraduate Enrollment by Academic Level data on page 3 of the data packet. Overall, enrollment numbers for Fall 2018 are going to be higher than last year across academic levels.

Janet also clarified that the list of students by majors list and minors only include those students who have declared at the point of study away. This means that many students' majors and minors are not included here as it is very common to wait to declare majors or minors until they are quite close to graduation.

Janet brought to the committee's attention the large number of visiting students for Fall 2018. She explained this is in part due to a particular advisor at Wake Forest who is an NYU Florence alum.

Committee members noted the increase in students coming from NYU Abu Dhabi in Spring 2017, and from NYU Shanghai in Fall 2015. Linda Mills (Global Programs) explained that currently we must rely on NYU schools to predict future enrollment, which can be challenging to do for departments and schools with more horizontal majors. The Office of Global Programs working with schools to create a more predictable model.

Janet explained that some of the increase in NYUAD enrollments could be explained by the new Physics pathway, which brought an additional four students. She added that it takes time for programs to become well known by students and for them to flourish. She also noted that there may be interest from visiting students in Physics at Florence in the future. The committee discussed NYU Florence becoming a place for Physics students from all across the US to come and study away together, noting that typically Physics students have difficulty studying abroad.

Committee members asked about low enrollments in some courses in comparison with Liberal Studies courses. Janet explained that Liberal Studies enrollments are high because the curriculum for these students is required.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Ellyn Toscano (Site Director) discussed evaluations and stated that overall student feedback has been very positive. Global Programs is continuing to tweak the wording of questions pertaining to diversity, as some students still do not understand what is being asked.

Linda Mills (Global Programs) discussed the need to evaluate student pre-departure orientations. Students of color arriving in Florence in particular have had difficulty adjusting to life Florence. Global Programs has been working extensively with a group of students from the Student Senators Council to incorporate Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion information more prominently in the pre-departure orientation. Linda noted that orientation should encourage students to think about how to handle difficult situations they may experience as they study away. Ellyn added that pre-departure orientation is just the beginning of helping students manage this transition and noted that NYU Florence has had a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee for 5 years, as well as a student committee that meets with the NYU Florence Office of Student Life and Ellyn every week. A faculty member and a student has been identified at each global site to provide support to any student who feels their experiences to be difficult for any reason.

Nancy Morrison (Global Programs) stated that sometimes students want an anonymous place to go when they have issues on site and reminded the committee that the NYU Wellness Exchange is another resource for them.

Committee members asked about the impact of Italy's recent elections on students. For the most part, students seemed aware but not greatly affected by the election

day-to-day; however, there was an incident early in the semester in which an NYU Florence student experienced disturbing attention of a racial and sexual nature from some local Florentines in the city center. NYU Florence alerted students to the increase in racially charged incidents in light of the elections in Italy and held numerous talks on campus related to this issue.

Linda noted that the program evaluations look great overall. Students from Florence responded most positively when asked if they would recommend the program to a friend when compared to other NYU global sites. She also pointed to the fact that NYU Florence upperclassmen appear more satisfied with the experience as a whole than the first year students. Ellyn responded that the first year students do not have a comparison to a U.S. college experience yet and noted that most negative feedback from first year students pertains to living on campus or roommate disputes.

Committee members asked if socio-economic differences among first year students could contribute to their relative dissatisfaction. Ellyn responded that the Office of Student Life trips are all free of charge so any difference in students' budgets are less visible to address potential disparities.