

NYU Buenos Aires Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 30, 2017, 11:30am-12:45pm
383 Lafayette, C06 (Basement Conference Center)

ATTENDEES

- Anna Kazumi Stahl (Site Director, NYU Buenos Aires)
- Millery Polyne (Co-Chair; Gallatin)
- Lourdes Davila (Spanish/Portuguese)
- Thomas Ertman (College Core Curriculum)
- Erin Godfrey (Steinhardt- Applied Psychology)
- Antonia Lant (Tisch)
- Juan Piñon (Steinhardt- Media, Culture, and Communication)
- John Robertson (NYU Shanghai)
- Guillermo Sabbioni (Academics, NYU Buenos Aires)
- Carol Anne Spreen (Steinhardt)
- Linda Mills (Vice Chancellor, Global Programs and University Life)
- Gbenga Ogedegbe (Associate Vice Chancellor of Global Programs, Global Public Health)
- Marianne Petit (Associate Vice Chancellor of Global Programs, Tisch, NYU Shanghai)
- Nancy Morrison (Vice President, Global Programs)
- Tyra Liebmann (Vice President, Global Programs)
- Janet Alperstein (Vice President, Global Programs)
- Jessica Levin (Student Services, Global Programs)

INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the global network continues to evolve and play an increasingly significant role in contributing to NYU's academic mission, and in response to suggestions from two key faculty committees, the University created new part-time faculty leadership roles related to global academic and faculty planning and conducted open searches to fill them. Coming out of that process, senior faculty members from five schools (i.e., Arts and Science, Global Public Health, Medicine, Shanghai, and Tisch) have taken on new roles over the past year:

- Associate Vice Chancellors for Global Network Academic Planning: Professor [Olugbenga \("Gbenga"\) Ogedegbe](#) (School of Medicine and College of Global Public Health) and Professor [Marianne Petit](#) (Tisch School of the Arts and NYU Shanghai)
- Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Network Faculty Planning: Professor [Zvi Ben-Dor Benite](#) (Faculty of Arts and Science)
- Senior Academic Convenor for the Global Network: Professor [Eliot Borenstein](#) (Faculty of Arts and Science)

Faculty members should feel free to reach out to Gbenga, Marianne, Zvi, or Eliot with comments or questions about the global network at any time.

SITE DIRECTOR REPORT

Anna Kazumi Stahl, Site Director at NYU Buenos Aires, went through her written report (distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting), taking note of several highlights:

- **January 2017 Faculty Visit:** Faculty members from various schools visited NYU Buenos Aires to learn more about the site. The trip included visits to internship sites and meeting local faculty. Overall it seemed to be a very productive trip.
- **Clustering:** Anna discussed the social justice theme of the site and clusters that exist, including social justice and diversity, social justice and politics, and social justice and art. These clusters can be seen as a way to package the site to students. She also discussed how schools have collaborated on courses and that Media, Culture and Communications will have more growth at the site. Anna requested help in thinking more assertively about co-curricular activities and how they affect learning in courses.
- **Local Engagement**
 - *Internships:* NYU Buenos Aires signed with the Ministry of Modernization for an Urban Planning internship. This is notable because in the past undergraduate students have only been able to do internships at NGOs. The site has also signed with the Ministry of Health for graduate students from the Silver School of Social Work.
 - *Local Universities:* NYU Buenos Aires has increased efforts to reach out to local students and universities to encourage more interaction, including the University of St. Martin. These partnerships contribute to the intellectual life of the site.
 - *Student Voices:*
 - The Breathing Room continues to be a productive space for students, with a student leader emerging each semester. It seems to have provided students a sense of belonging in Buenos Aires and a space to confront cultural differences and realize their own resources.
 - A Bronfman Site Ambassador also proved helpful in galvanizing students.
 - A student involved with an online Spanish journal has encouraged other students to write about their experience during study away.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Based on student feedback, NYU Buenos Aires has worked on addressing student life challenges. This includes adding a second housing option that will accommodate a small number of students seeking a more independent experience. It was also noted that the on-site visa process has become more agile for students. Additionally, the site has also organized a trip to Iguazu Falls each semester where students have the opportunity to engage with the indigenous community through a local professor.

DATA PACKET AND CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENTS

The Committee went through the data packet, which includes enrollment trends both at the site and individual course offerings. It was noted that more sophomores are going in the spring while the number of juniors has increased in the fall. Enrollment numbers do not capture the graduate Social Work students in the fall, nor the law students in the spring. Numbers in the fall are expected to grow with the students from the Global Public Health master's program.

Numerous areas for growth were discussed by the Committee:

- There may be potential to expand CORE courses at the site, which could be helpful in attracting more students from the College of Arts and Science.
- There are efforts to work with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies to adjust parts of their major that would allow them to go to Buenos Aires.
- There are efforts to have Cinema Studies courses cross-listed with Media, Cultures and Communications.
- The Committee would like to explore the possibility of two-credit components, which could be an independent study or one that includes an excursion to learn about environmental justice that Steinhardt could possibly sponsor

The Committee also discussed if concerns about crime and inflation could affect numbers. Anna noted that crime, including petty theft, has not really increased, and issues with inflation and accessing dollars have improved. The exchange rate is more stable. It was also noted that petty theft has been a concern in other sites.

AY17-18 REMINDERS

The Committee was reminded to please notify the academics team in Global Programs if your department has any course changes for the AY17-18 year. If you will be on sabbatical at any point next year, please also notify the staffer of who has been nominated to represent your department.

NEXT STEPS

- Further explore areas for course clustering and two-credit components.
- Further explore collaboration between departments to cross-list courses.
- Further explore possible expansion of CORE courses.