

NYU Madrid Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 14, 2017, 9:30 am New York/ 3:30 pm Madrid

383 Lafayette Street, Room #C-08

Attendees

- Robert S Lubar (Site Director; Committee Co-Chair)
- Lorena Llosa (Committee Co-Chair; Steinhardt - Teaching & Learning)
- Miriam M Basilio (CAS - Art History)
- Thomas C Ertman (CAS - Sociology)
- Ascension Mejorado (Liberal Studies)
- Sunder Narayanan (Stern - Marketing)
- Nathaniel L Beck (CAS - Politics)
- Sophie Gonick (CAS - European and Mediterranean Studies)
- Angela Zito (CAS - Anthropology and Religious Studies)
- Zeb Tortorici (CAS - Spanish & Portuguese)

Global Learning Objectives Report

- The Faculty Working Group on Global Learning Objectives (GLO) first convened in October 2016 for the purpose of having a faculty-driven conversation about global learning objectives. Comprising 17 faculty members from across the university, the committee met 8 times during the 2016-2017 academic year.
- In May 2017, the committee issued a report on its findings (available on the NYU website [here](#)). The report begins the process of articulating the desired outcomes of study away so that the university can begin to measure its success in meeting these objectives.
- Global Programs is in the process of reviewing the report. In the spring of 2018 we plan to have a larger conversation with faculty to learn more about the outcomes of the report as well as data from the Survey of Admitted Students to guide a larger discussion on the university's objectives moving forward. As NYU is a leading institution with global programming, we are well positioned to be a leader in assessment of global learning.

Fall 2017 Site Director Report

- NYU Madrid is going from strength to strength. Fall 2017 enrollment rose 20 percent from the previous year. There has also been an increase in applications. The sense of community that has been nurtured among the faculty and staff has trickled down to students who seem connected, collaborative and in good spirits.
- The rise in enrollment has had a positive impact on housing. Based on anecdotal feedback from students, Residence Hall satisfaction is better than last semester overall.

- Academics has also seen some strong developments. The addition of a new Expressive Cultures course, *Spanish Cinema*, was very successful, giving the site two Core courses with the ability to consistently draw large numbers of students. Aside from the addition of the Expressive Cultures course, all other course offerings have remained the same.
- Work continues on the new academic center. The certificate of occupancy and educational license are still being worked out and a January 2019 move-in date is currently being projected. The new site will feature a 600-square-foot welcome center which be an excellent space for hosting student life programming, receptions, and a variety of programs open to the public. Multi-use classrooms will be available throughout the building. On the 2nd floor there will be a seminar room and two additional spaces designated for graduate programs, Spanish Language and TESL. The 3rd floor will feature three large classrooms and administrative staff space. Faculty office spaces, lounge and pantry will be located on the 4th floor. The 4th floor will also house the wellness counselor's office which will have a private entrance. GRI will also have its own seminar room on the 4th floor as well as five GRI offices with patio/terrace open to faculty and staff.

The possibility of convening a planning meeting with the committee during summer 2018 to collaborate with the Madrid site staff was brought up. The meeting would map out a schedule of events, afternoon activities, and additional programming at the academic center to help shape the identity and culture of the site.

Class scheduling is a very complicated issue and is likely to be a long and challenging process. The Schedule 25 tool the Registrar's Office offers was identified as an option that could help with scheduling. It was noted that other global sites are already using the tool and can offer support to the Madrid staff.

The committee agreed that a holistic review of all course offerings and exploration of cross-disciplinary opportunities is desirable in order to avoid a disconnected conglomeration of micro-programs. During this period of growth, the site wants to manage the development of course offerings in order to remain as flexible and adaptable as possible. The larger classroom spaces could offer an opportunity to increase enrollment in Core courses and increase capacity in courses that have previously being restricted (Stern). With more and more language proficient GLS students expected to enroll as juniors, it could make sense to offer more options that would appeal to Spanish speaking students and, since GLS students' specializations vary so much, offering courses in Spanish across disciplines could work out well.

The addition of Liberal Studies freshmen is expected to necessitate additional course offerings, faculty and student life staff.

Low enrollment in literature courses had been a worry and the committee brought up how to make literature courses more dynamic. Eliot Borenstein is convening a group to rethink literature courses across all of the global sites. The committee discussed how canonical texts might be reframed in a more appealing way that attracts students ("archivists," "activists," "artists"). The *Borges* class in Buenos Aires was also cited as an example of a successful literature course that was able to effectively fold in visual culture and city exploration. Heritage speakers were identified as a student group that can help think through this kind of planning.

Several committee members raised questions about the recent violence associated with the referendum in Catalonia, the current global political climate and its potential impact on the site's

projected growth. Students and parents are sensitive to media portrayals of each city's/country's culture and politics. NYU Madrid hosted a town hall on the referendum and its aftermath that was very well attended and received by the students. The committee agreed that making that information publicly available could also ease anxieties for students considering spending a future semester in Madrid. Despite the situation in Barcelona, students do not seem concerned with safety and have been traveling around the country as much as any previous semester.

The possibility of developing opportunities for guaranteed cohorts and incentivizing study away for students were explored as measure to ensure that we can mitigate the potential ebbs and flows caused by world events.

Program Evaluations

One of the goals in recent semesters has been to ensure academic rigor across all course offerings. In the latest evaluations, the majority of students stated that they find courses to be challenging, which was found to be a positive reflection of the effort.

Data Packet

Despite an overall growth in enrollment, the Fall/Spring imbalance is still a problem and Madrid continues to need help from the schools and departments to even out the numbers.

The number of Juniors at the site grew over both the Fall and Spring semesters.

Sophomore enrollment went up in the Spring and down in the Fall.

There is a trend of students declaring a second major or minor after they return from Madrid and Buenos Aires. The factors that impact students' decision making processes regarding major and minor selection post-study away was identified as an area of interest for future consideration.

Committee members were urged to take a look at their departments' offerings and identify courses that are facing enrollment challenges. Departments should make note of what other courses their own majors are taking. The schools should also try to look at what courses the undecided students are taking to try and identify obstacles and opportunities. It was noted that Shanghai is now offering Spanish. If business students in Shanghai come to Madrid to further their language acquisition and participate in internships, there exists the potential of making those students quite marketable.

While the EU inflection in course offerings can be exciting to many students, it may be worthwhile to explore Madrid as a gateway to Latin America.

Closing thoughts and takeaways

Since the MA program in Spanish Literature and Cultural Studies has ended, there are a number of faculty who came over to live permanently at the site. At this time, it's hard to know how to keep these individuals involved with the site.

The NYU Madrid site leadership will plan a series of meetings some time during Summer 2018 to prepare for the January 19, 2019 move-in date.

Out on sabbatical: Justin Stearns and Miriam Basilio