

## **NYU Madrid Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**

*Wednesday, November 6, 2019, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM EST*

*Global Seminar Room, 19 Washington Square North*

### **Attendance**

- Janet Alperstein, Global Programs
- Miriam M Basilio, FAS - Art History
- Nathaniel Beck, FAS - Politics
- Jim Fernandez, NYU Madrid
- Alexander Geppert, FAS - CEMS
- Tyra Liebmann, Global Programs
- Ascension Mejorado, Liberal Studies
- Linda Mills, Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life
- Nancy Morrison, Global Programs
- Sunder Narayanan, Stern
- Sarah Pearce, FAS - Spanish & Portuguese
- Marianne Petit, Tisch, and Associate Vice Chancellor, Global Programs
- Justin Sterns, NYU Abu Dhabi
- Edward Sullivan, FAS - Art History
- Jeff Timmons, NYU Abu Dhabi

### **Meeting Minutes**

Nancy Morrison opened the meeting by welcoming Edward Sullivan from the Institute of Fine Arts and Department of Art History to his new position as committee chair.

Jim Fernandez, Site Director of NYU Madrid, highlighted the exceptional work of his predecessor, Rob Lubar. He discussed curricular developments and activities at the site, as detailed in the Site Director's Report (see attached). He mentioned that the site is focusing on strengthening the links between student life initiatives with the curriculum, through the development of focus areas. Linda Mills noted that the broader objective of curricular focus areas is to accommodate students' interdisciplinary academic interests. She welcomed feedback from the committee on how the University can make this more apparent to students. The committee discussed potential focus areas for Madrid. Janet Alperstein offered to speak with committee member's departments about focus areas, student enrollment, and course offerings that might attract students to study away, as well as any other related topics.

Linda Mills and Nancy Morrison thanked the committee for their hard work, commitment, and enthusiasm to contribute to NYU Madrid.

### **NYU Madrid Site Director Report: Fall 2019**

The semester is running very smoothly so far. Our Fall enrollment dipped slightly for reasons that are not clearly understood; we currently have 99 students, down from 112 from last Fall. The breakdown by school is as follows: Stern 28; CAS, 24; Liberal Studies, 17; TSOA, 7; NYU Shanghai, 5; Visiting, 5; Gallatin, 4; Steinhardt, 4; School of Prof Studies, 3; NYU Abu Dhabi, 2.

The staff has been very busy managing the day-to-day of the current semester, while planning for all of the exciting initiatives that are in the pipe-line, such as: next semester's record-breaking number of students; multiple J-term group visits; the arrival of a cohort of 17 Global Public Health MA students in January who will spend the Spring with us; a variety of summer programs; and, starting next Fall, preparing for the inaugural cohort of Liberal Studies First Year Students.

The new location of our site at Calle Barquillo 13 is fulfilling all expectations. Our courses are running smoothly, and the new location is allowing us to build additional and more meaningful co-curricular activities into all of our courses. Activities planned by the Academics and Student Life teams are creating daily opportunities for students to immerse themselves in Madrid and Spain and witness first-hand momentous events taking place.

Our challenge will be to take on the conceptualization, design and implementation of new initiatives, while concurrently managing a heavy load of daily planning and operations. In the weeks and months ahead, we will endeavor to sharply define our academic/intellectual profile and propose innovative strategies-that elevate those core academic values.

#### **Academics**

##### **Language Courses**

- In the Spring we plan to increase the number of sections for several language courses to accommodate our projected enrollment of 160.
- Isabel Pereira, as part of her duties with graduate students, has been helping to coordinate staffing the Global Public Health MA program, as well as designing three special language courses that will be tailored to these students.
- All of our language courses continue to incorporate and develop co-curricular activities, taking advantage of what the neighborhood has to offer in linguistic/cultural immersion: walking tours of Chueca and La Latina, excursions to farmers markets, visits to galleries and museums, for example.

##### **Content Courses**

- The site currently offers 7 content courses in Spanish and 14 in English in the fall, covering 12 areas of study. The most represented areas of study are: Spanish Studies (8 courses); Business (4 courses); and Politics (3 courses).
- Courses offered in English have robust enrollments; courses taught in Spanish, less so. This is

largely because of the make-up of the student body; many students test into elementary and intermediate levels of Spanish-language proficiency, which prohibits them from taking our courses offered in Spanish.

- As in the language courses, a rich array of co-curricular activities is woven into each “content” course. Students in Masterpieces of the Prado (English section and Spanish section), for example, undertake group visits to the Museo del Prado, Museo Reina Sofía, Museo Thyssen, and San Antonio de la Florida, and also enjoy a mandatory academic day trip to Toledo. That same trip to Toledo is required of all students enrolled in “Islam and Spain”, as is an overnight trip to Córdoba, and visits to Madrid’s Mosque and Islamic Cultural Center. The course “Madrid: Urban Visions” includes in its syllabus walking tours of the Gran Vía, Moncloa, Puerta del Sol and surroundings, including La Latina, and Lavapiés. Guest speakers, trips the theater performances, museums and galleries, and thematic walking tours (such as Madrid in the Spanish Civil War) are other types of co-curricular activities connected with our other courses.
- Working closely with departments and schools in New York, we are planning for the addition of several new and exciting courses in the coming semesters, including:
  - a new course on contemporary Spanish politics in comparative perspective, to begin in Spring 2020.
  - At the direction of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Critical Approaches course will be phased out and two new courses “Key Words” and “Key Works” will be phased in, beginning of Fall 2020.
  - Several Liberal Studies courses will be added, in preparation for the arrival of the Liberal Studies First Year Away Program in Madrid, which will start in Fall 2020.
  - a new course in Performance Studies, “Performance of the City: Madrid” (4 credits) as part of a new TSOA pathway, the first for this new pathway.
- We have continued to offer a series of public talks/lectures given by current faculty members, and keyed to specific courses. Depending on the topic, each lecture is required for students in certain courses, recommended for students in others, and open to all students in all courses. Lecture topics are often chosen specifically to bridge academic questions with student-life issues: for example, feminism and gender in contemporary Spain; prejudice, racism and xenophobia in contemporary Spain; latinx immigration and identity in contemporary Spain. Many of the talks are offered in English, as the program is designed to reach as many students as possible.

We are grateful to our Assistant Director for Academics, Soledad Gálvez, for helping to coordinate numerous lecturer searches with our colleagues in New York to prepare for these new courses.

### **New Site**

- Students, faculty and staff are thoroughly enjoying and making great use of our new location at Calle Barquillo 13. The building’s unbeatable location at the epicenter of Madrid’s cultural life will help us write a new chapter in the history of NYU Madrid.
- Former Director Rob Lubar and the NYU Madrid staff did a wonderful job overseeing and executing a complicated move, and managed to iron out many of the kinks that pop up anytime a new facility is first occupied. We are mindful of monitoring the space use of the new building and discussing ways to facilitate community building and “chance encounters” between students, lecturers and staff by better utilizing the building’s shared spaces.
- Librarian Marta Macorra has had three new display shelves installed in the library, to highlight the recent scholarship and publications of 1) NYU Madrid faculty and alumni; 2) NYU NY faculty;

3) NYU faculty worldwide. We believe that this small and inexpensive measure will go a long way toward foregrounding research and helping build community.

- Alex Pérez and Elena Díaz of Student Life are piloting this semester an exciting new initiative called “MADart”. During the second half of the semester, a group of four young local artists (two photographers and two muralists) will lead interested students on an exploration of the visual culture of the Chueca/Centro neighborhood: galleries and museums, street art, street scenes, etc. Each group will then produce a work (or a series of works) of visual art documenting their experience of the neighborhood, and conceived of as a legacy to be left to the students who will arrive in the future. The works will be featured at the same end-of-the-semester activity when our “Madrid Stories” documentaries are screened, and, as appropriate, they will be installed in designated parts of the building. As the body of work grows with each new group, students in future semesters will be invited to curate the collection. The initiative has great promise as it will promote meaningful engagement with the city, as well as with students.

## **Student Life**

- Housing: we continue to monitor and maintain the high standards and top-notch services of our homestay opportunities and the Claraval Residence. This semester we have managed to reserve accommodations for a sharp increase in the number of students expected for the spring. We have designed a plan to add more than 10 new Homestay spaces, all located within the center of Madrid and fully consistent with NYU standards. Moreover, we have secured approval for using a new Residence, El Faro, for next semester (Spring 2020) and we have been laying the foundation for the upcoming semesters and subsequent rising numbers.
- Cultural events, activities and community building: as of today we have successfully organised 35 activities over the 2 months of students’ stay in Madrid. We have conducted walking tours on the different neighborhoods of Madrid, visited art exhibitions, theatre plays, sport venues, and organized outdoor activities as well as open spaces for conversations regarding race, gender, sexuality, current events and culture shock. We have promoted yoga and meditation spaces and worked with our student leaders from our IDBE committee and Student Government to engage students as our roster of activities continues to evolve.
- We continue our Madrid Faces magazine, focused on the experience of our students in Madrid in a “Humans of New York” type of format, and our MAD Questions, videoclips of fast paced student interviews. We have also been working with several NGOs, schools and other associations in order to create and offer feasible and meaningful volunteering projects for the students, such as tutoring kids in low-income schools, helping in centers for MS patients, or collaborating on projects to support immigrants.
- Three local interns, from the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, are working with us since the beginning of the semester. They interact with our students through different projects (Social Media and communication, Internship Program, Library), providing students the opportunity to get involved with local community of their age.
- MADart is currently our most important innovation: as described above (student life), MADart is a project led by 4 young Spanish artists that gives students the chance to work on neighborhood-based works of art that will be exhibited at NYU Madrid.

### **GRI/King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center Foundation**

- In September we hired Gloria Rodríguez, who graduated from NYU with an MA in Food Studies, as coordinator of both the Global Research Institute and the King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center Foundation. We are working closely with Gloria to identify potential synergies between the two units that she coordinates and the rest of the programs at the site. The research and public events profiles of the GRI/KJC are areas of exciting potential.