

NYU Accra Advisory Committee Meeting Annotated Agenda

Wednesday, November 29, 2017, 9:30am New York / 2:30pm Accra

383 Lafayette Street #C08

In attendance

- Gbenga Ogedegbe (CGPH)
- Rosalind Fredericks - Chair (Gallatin)
- Frankie Edozien (FAS-Journalism)
- Robyn d'Avignon (FAS-History)
- Renee Blake (FAS-SCA and FAS - Linguistics)
- Mark Sanders (FAS- Comparative Literature)
- Yaw Nyarko (Africa House)
- Akosua Anyidoho (NYU Accra)

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 articulates proposed learning objectives for study away for students across all disciplines so that the University can ensure program alignment and begin to measure its success in meeting these objectives.

The report was discussed at the Fall 2017 site directors meetings, and in Spring 2018 it will be discussed in a series of "global conversations" among faculty convened by Professor Eliot Borenstein, a member of the Working Group and the Senior Academic Convenor for the Global Network. As a leading institution in global education, NYU is well positioned to be advancing thinking and practice in this area, as well.

Fall 2017 Site Director Report

Akosua Anyidoho gave an overview of the site director report and fall program evaluations, which were distributed to the committee in advance of the meeting. Akosua highlighted and the committee discussed the following:

- Increased enrollment with 21 undergraduates and 10 MPH in fall 2017 and 161 total students across ~~short~~-all short term programs.
- Clustering courses thematically to create unique opportunities for students enrolled at NYU Accra and better define a site identity. Initial groupings considered are Public Health, Regional Studies, Teaching & Learning, and Journalism & Creative Arts. The groupings would ideally help steer students towards lower enrolled courses like creative writing and journalism.

Potential Courses and Minors at NYU Accra

The committee reviewed the process by which a course is approved and hosted at a site and considered possible new courses offerings that could complement those already available. The addition of economics courses was discussed up as part of the creation of a development studies theme or grouping. Yaw shared with the committee that economics is one of the largest majors on campus and courses like Bill Easterly's economic development are often waitlisted in NYC. The committee agreed that if the economics department were to approve courses hosted at NYU Accra, and Yaw were to expand the undergraduate research program he runs for Abu Dhabi students, there would be a strong grouping of courses that could be marketed as a development program. Rosalyn pointed out that the already approved and running Coco and Gold course, cross listed by History and Gallatin, was conceived as a development course and would compliment these offerings. She volunteered to work with Yaw and others on a subcommittee to advance this conversation.

The committee discussed the development of possible cross-school minors unique to students attending NYU Accra for one semester. Expanding on the previous points, the committee considered the possibility of a Economic Development minor. It was noted, however, that a cross-school minor with the economics may be difficult ~~has~~ as the department has moved towards a quantitative studies focus making it difficult to pair with politics or sociology that is more qualitative. The committee then discussed the possibility of students receiving a minor in Africana Studies by completing one term at NYU Accra. Renee explained the requirements of the minor will not be possible in one semester, but could be something students could work towards depending on course selection.

The committee next discussed the possibility of a 2 credit seminar course that would take advantage of the various experts who come to Accra for their own research or lectures. A possible joint sponsored program between NYU Accra and Ashesi~~hi~~ was discussed as a means to share the burden of planning as well as maximize networking opportunities for guest lecturers.

The committee agreed that a smaller subcommittee should be gathered to move forward the additional theme of Development Studies and related course offerings and research.

Program Evaluations

Akosua reviewed the Program Evaluations for Spring 2017. The Program Evaluations, developed by a committee of faculty and site directors, were first administered to the global sites in Spring 2015, and have since undergone extensive changes to ask fewer, more targeted questions.

Generally, Akosua and the committee were pleased with the results -- particularly that 95% of students would recommend the program to a friend. There are always areas to tweak, but overall the evaluations speak to a positive and fruitful experience.

Next Steps

- Small committee meet to discuss moving forward development courses and research options.
- Akosua requested the larger Accra SSAC committee meet more often.