

NYU Accra Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting
Third Meeting: March 5, 2014 (9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. EDT)

IN ATTENDANCE

- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Akosua Anyidoho (NYU Accra)
- Jim Fraser (Steinhardt)
- Rosalind Fredericks (Gallatin)
- Mike Gomez (CAS – History)
- Hilton Hallock (Global Programs)
- Larry Jackson (Provost's Office)
- Erin Kuhn (Global Programs)
- David Ludden (CAS – History)
- Yaw Nyarko (Africa House)
- Gbenga Ogedegbe (Global Institute of Public Health)
- Josie Saldana (CAS – Social and Cultural Analysis)
- Mark Sanders (CAS – Comparative Literature)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost's Office)
- John Singler (CAS – Linguistics)

CURRICULUM DISCUSSIONS

The committee was updated on the global curriculum discussions that have been taking place in schools and departments on the Square. At the time of the meeting, approximately 34% of schools and departments had already reviewed and approved their global curriculum; approximately 32% were taking ongoing steps to enhance their global curriculum; and approximately 34% were still reviewing their global offerings. These curriculum discussions are an important initial step in ensuring that schools and departments have a sense of ownership over their global course offerings. These conversations also ensure that global course offerings are coordinated with curriculum on the Square and are thus in line with department goals and objectives.

Update: As of the distribution of these notes on April 23, 2014, 95% of all schools/departments have reviewed the history of their curricular offerings (except Paris course offerings, which are currently being assembled in anticipation of the inaugural Paris Site-Specific Advisory meeting). Global Programs has been and continues to be in discussion with several schools/departments and sites about their course offerings in the global sites. If you have questions or feedback about these reviews, please let us know, as we have carefully tracked the responses. We will now make these reviews a regular (every semester) part of a process of engaging the departments on the Square in the global curriculum they sponsor, both through the partner departments and schools on the site-specific committees and for those departments with affiliations in the global sites.

CURRICULAR AND CROSS-CURRICULAR BRAINSTORMING

With school/department discussions wrapping up, the committee was able to take the opportunity to review the site's entire global curriculum using the course list and enrollment handout distributed at the meeting (and now posted on the committee [website](#)). The committee reviewed course offerings at the site, including those that are cross-listed between departments, their enrollment numbers, and major/minor data across four academic terms. The following topics and ideas emerged from this collective review:

- Accra has significant enrollments in January term (J-term) and over the summer, which are not reflected in the enrollment figures distributed at the meeting. These special, short-term programs can pose unique challenges—e.g., they sometimes overlap or happen in such rapid succession that staff must run multiple intensive orientation activities in a short period of time.
 - Akosua Anyidoho noted that a number of these special programs are at the graduate level. Wagner sponsors Hunger and Food Security in a Global Perspective each summer; Journalism runs a two-week program in Accra at the end of May; and SCPS has also sent students in Global Affairs to the Site in summer.
 - Other activities at the Site include internships and visits from scholars who are conducting research in Accra.
- Students from the University of Ghana-Legon have been able to take Linguistics courses at NYU Accra in previous semesters, though changes to the academic calendar at the University of Ghana-Legon have made it more difficult for the Ghanaian students to participate in these classes. Studying alongside students from Ghana is an attractive opportunity for NYU students, who sometimes feel isolated from the local culture when studying at our Global Sites.
- Tisch shared with the committee its strategic planning document, which identifies existing and proposed course offerings in Accra, along with their rationale, projected enrollments, and any special needs associated with the course.

“PATHWAYS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THEMES”

As schools and departments establish and develop their connections to the site via partnerships and affiliations, the committee can begin the next phase of articulating the site's academic identity: identifying “pathways, opportunities, and themes.” A “pathway” is a well-developed curricular structure that is the result of a school or department's investment in the site, and that offers sufficient coursework to enable students to advance in their majors. Pathways can cross schools and departments and also be interdisciplinary. “Opportunities” are small groupings of courses that enable students to learn more about a particular field. Finally, “themes” are the overarching interdisciplinary topics or areas that are explored through the site's curriculum, and which the committee would incorporate into the site's academic narrative. The committee articulated the following in the context of developing the site's academic identity:

- Pathways are a crucial component of a site’s identity and will allow students to plan their study away experience based on how well the site’s curriculum meets their academic needs.
- Pathways are envisioned to provide predictable enrollments, allowing for more advanced and accurate horizon planning. It was agreed that more can be accomplished if predictable student enrollments are guaranteed in advance of course offerings.
- The following proposed pathway emerged from discussion:
 - Critical Development Studies: Rosalind Fredericks noted that there is significant interest in this field at Gallatin, with a focus on Accra as a deep case study.
- The following proposed programs/opportunities emerged from discussion:
 - Technology for Economic Development: Yaw Nyarko described a joint course sponsored by Economics and Computer Science at CAS, as well as Computer Science at NYU Abu Dhabi, which studies how social enterprise activities can intersect with Economics and Computer Science (e.g., providing cell phones to give prices to farmers or developing better ways to access the internet in regions with limited bandwidth). Yaw would like to see the course offered in Accra as well. Josie Saldana suggested that the course would also be of interest to students in Social and Cultural Analysis at CAS, and Gbenga Ogedegbe offered to discuss the course with Cheryl Heaton, Director of the Global Institute of Public Health.
 - David Ludden suggested joint courses between Accra and London focused on health and globalization.
- The following proposed themes emerged from discussion:
 - Global Health.
 - The Arts.
 - Service Learning.
 - Development Studies.
 - The opportunity to study with Ghanaian students (a “hallmark” of the Site).

WEBSITE NARRATIVE

The current NYU Accra homepage and academic website narratives were shared with the committee for review and discussion in the context of the themes and synergies under consideration. The group agreed to review the narrative as a Google Doc prior to the committee’s next meeting.

AFFILIATE DEPARTMENTS

The committee considered how best to include affiliate schools/departments in the ongoing curriculum development discussions. Ultimately, the committee agreed that it was premature to bring in affiliates,

and that another meeting should be convened with partner departments, at which time the topic can again be discussed.

GLOBAL CURRICULUM AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

At the previous meeting, the new Global Curriculum Enhancement and Faculty Development Fund (GCEFDF) was announced. This fund will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to global faculty who propose to work with faculty and departments on the Square to improve existing courses or to undertake other projects that will promote faculty development and collaboration in connection with teaching. The Office of General Counsel is working with the Site Directors and legal counsel at each Site to create guidelines that take into account the various local labor laws and tax restrictions.

NEXT STEPS

- Global Programs will share the website narrative as a Google Doc for input and discussion at the next meeting.
- Committee members were asked to think about advising strategies that would be relevant to enrollments at NYU Accra during fall and spring semesters.
- Next meeting: the committee agreed to focus on academic advising, including the use of the web to guide students to course offerings/sites, and to continue the conversation and development of academic pathways, opportunities, and themes.