

NYU Accra Advisory Committee Meeting
November 12th, 2014

Attendees:

Mike Gomez (FAS-History)
John Singler (FAS - Linguistics))
Akosua Anyidoho (NYU Accra)
John Gershman (Wagner)
Gbenga Ogedegbe (GIPH)
Rosalind Fredericks (Gallatin)
Hannah Bruckner (NYUAD)
Carlos Guedes (NYUAD)
Matthew Santirocco (Office of the Provost)
Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
Tyra Liebmann (Global Programs)
Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
Chris Nicolussi (Global Programs)
Jessica Levin (Global Programs)
Erin Kuhn (Global Programs)

I. Discussion of Future Activities at NYU Accra

Members discussed a possible student-led film initiative, where NYU students studying in Accra would be equipped with cameras and given documentary film training with the goal of producing a film about living in West Africa and the region's response to the Ebola outbreak. It was suggested that this film could be connected to the documentary film class at NYU Accra.

Members also discussed the proposal for a conference on 'The Humanities and 21st Century Africa: A Search/Quest for Alternative Development Models' which would be hosted by NYU Accra. The proposed dates for the conference are: March 26-27, 2015. Participants would include faculty from NYU Accra and the University of Ghana, as well as students. Members discussed inviting University leadership to the conference and branding it as part of NYU Accra's 10 year anniversary celebration.

II. Committee Business

Program Assessment

The Provost's Office is revising the site evaluation, which was suspended last spring in anticipation of a new version being developed. The updated version will be shorter in length, and will include questions not only on student life, but also on the academic program at the site, specifically on the level of immersion and engagement students have while studying away. A committee comprised of Site

Directors and faculty from Site-Specific Advisory Committees will provide guidance to the Provost's Office on this initiative.

Site Director Update

Akosua shared the following updates with committee members:

- NYU Accra has been working with Library Services to provide students and faculty with access to e-books.
- Gbenga Ogedegbe, Yaw Nyarko, and Lewis Goldfrank visited Accra this October to lead a roundtable discussion on Ghana's Ebola preparedness with faculty from the University of Ghana Medical School. They will soon issue a final report from these discussions. A follow-up meeting is being planned at Africa House.
- Steinhardt, Wagner, and Nursing have continued the Women Leadership Training Institute in Accra, using the facilities at the site.

Advising Ideas/New Curriculum Update

Members reviewed a list of advising ideas from all Site-Specific Advisory Committees. The following additional ideas and updates emerged during the conversation:

- Members discussed developing interdisciplinary courses that would have broad appeal, including a course on 'Listening to the Urban Environment' which could be taught across multiple sites (Abu Dhabi, Accra, Paris, and New York).
- Members were also given an update on a Critical Development Studies course that uses Ghana's historical development as a case study. The course will be sponsored by Gallatin and History.
- NYU Abu Dhabi students may be interested in earning credit toward pre-professional programs during their time at the global sites. For instance, an accelerated master's program is being developed between GIPH and Wagner, and courses at NYU Accra could count toward this degree. A BA/MPH program is also being developed through Gallatin.
- Some students may be interested in pursuing 'fields of inquiry', which could include areas of study such as 'gender and development', which are not represented by a major or a minor. Members agreed that the committee should think about possible 'fields of inquiry' that may be appropriate for NYU Accra.

Members were reminded that as courses are being proposed, the Office of Global Programs can help provide a forum where interested schools and departments can talk about possible collaboration.

III. Next Steps

- The Office of Global Programs will work with NYU Accra to secure the date of the proposed Humanities Conference