

## **NYU Accra Site-Specific Advisory Committee**

Inaugural Meeting: October 9th, 2013 (2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT)

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

- Akosua Anyidoho (NYU Accra)
- Carolyn Dinshaw (CAS-SCA)
- Rosalind Fredericks (Gallatin)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Gbenga Ogedegbe (GIPH)
- Mark Sanders (CAS- Comparative Literature)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost's Office)
- John Singler (CAS - Linguistics)
- Esi Sutherland-Addy (NYU Accra)
- Global Academic Team

### **INTRODUCTIONS**

On behalf of their departments/schools, members of the committee introduced themselves, their areas of academic interest, and their relationship to NYU Accra.

### **FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE**

Matthew Santirocco explained that the Site-Specific Advisory Committees grew out of extensive consultations last year with the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network and the GNU Initiatives Committee of the Faculty Senators Council, as well as with the Site Directors, School and Global Deans, and many NYU departments, schools and faculty members. Four themes emerged from those conversations: (a) every Site is different owing to its history and trajectory of development; (b) faculty would like to be more actively involved with the Global Sites, not only by approving course syllabi and instructors, as they do now, but by engaging in deeper conversations about curriculum planning and site identity; (c) while many faculty were involved in setting up and developing the Sites, they served primarily in an individual capacity and not as representatives of their schools and departments; and (d) no forum existed to discuss synergies among academic programs at the Global Sites. As a result, site-specific faculty committees were formed. The committees comprise faculty from schools and departments with existing or planned partnerships at Global Sites, though faculty from affiliated schools and departments will be invited to participate in the curriculum discussions of the site committees. (More information on these committees can be found here: [www.nyu.edu/global/global-academic-partnerships-and-affiliations/faculty-discussions-on-global-sites.html](http://www.nyu.edu/global/global-academic-partnerships-and-affiliations/faculty-discussions-on-global-sites.html))

## SITE OVERVIEW

NYU Accra Site Director Akosua Anyidoho provided the group with an overview of the Site that covered the following areas:

- **Site History:** NYU Accra opened in the fall 2004 semester. Going into its 10<sup>th</sup> year as a Global Site, NYU Accra now hosts approximately 30 students each semester.
- **Faculty:** Akosua noted that all 16 of the faculty at NYU Accra hold a PhD or terminal degree. The academic institutions where NYU Accra faculty have full-time employment include the University of Ghana, Ashesi University College, and Central University College.
- **Facilities:** NYU Accra's facilities include classrooms, study space, a computer lab, and a small library. Students in Accra are housed in two spaces that are located in residential neighborhoods within walking distance of NYU's academic center.
- **Experiential Learning:** Akosua described the internship opportunities available to students at NYU Accra, citing the United Way of Ghana and the West Africa AIDS Foundation as examples.

## KEY ISSUES

The committee discussed the following issues:

- **Curriculum development:** Several committee members noted the importance of offering upper-level courses at the Site to make it easier for students to make progress in their majors. It was agreed that horizon planning would better allow students to plan their coursework in advance. The committee also expressed interest in exploring curriculum synergies between NYU schools and departments and the Site (Gallatin's Development Studies curriculum, for example) and developing certificate programs that would allow for greater engagement with students from local universities (Global Public Health, for example). Other potential new initiatives included the development of summer programs that leverage NYU Accra's resources and build an intellectual and experiential 'package' for students.
- **Advisement/Engagement:** The group noted the importance of developing strategies to engage students from majors that have not previously been well-represented at the Site (e.g., Comparative Literature).
- **Research:** Gbenga Ogedegbe discussed the importance of finding opportunities for students to participate in existing research activities in Ghana (e.g., NYU School of Medicine's research grant), and he noted that the presence of NYU medical faculty in Ghana could be leveraged by the site to provide undergraduate teaching and research opportunities.
- **Faculty Engagement:** John Singler suggested that NYU faculty visiting Accra could engage with the Site through lectures and conferences while faculty circulation remains

on “pause” as the School Deans and the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network explore the issue. In addition, visa, tax, and labor questions are currently being reviewed for each site.

## **NEXT STEPS**

It was agreed that the committee’s next meeting will take place later this semester. The agenda will include:

- Curriculum at NYU Accra and assessment of courses
- Advising
- Research opportunities for faculty and students
- Opportunities to leverage the resources of local institutions
- Enrollment and evaluation trends
- Internship opportunities in Accra as a recruiting tool for students

The Office of Global Programs will begin gathering whatever data are needed to explore these issues, including a list of internships held by NYU Accra students.