

NYU Berlin Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting
November 18, 2013 (9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. EDT)

IN ATTENDANCE

- David Darts (Steinhardt)
- Tom Ertman (CAS – Sociology)
- Gabriella Etmektsoglou (Site Director – NYU Berlin)
- Eckart Goebel (CAS – German Studies)
- Karen Hornick (Gallatin)
- Kevin Kuhlke (Tisch)
- Jason King (Tisch)
- Eva Lezzi (NYU Berlin – German Studies)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost’s Office)
- Jochen Steinbicker (NYU Berlin – Sociology)
- Global Academic Team

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND AREAS OF FOCUS

The group first discussed a number of possible areas on which they can focus their attention, including:

- exploring opportunities for cross-school partnership and research;
- identifying potential relationships with local institutions/organizations;
- reviewing enrollment planning;
- developing strategies for student engagement/advising;
- communicating committee initiatives and decisions back to departments/schools; and
- expanding opportunities for students and faculty at the Global Sites.

The committee also considered whether to appoint a faculty chair, a question that the Faculty Advisory Committee on NYU’s Global Network had raised. Committee members present agreed that no committee chair was needed at present due to the size of the group.

CURRICULUM DISCUSSIONS

Members were reminded that over the next few months, global curriculum discussions will be conducted within schools, since all courses at our sites are sponsored by departments and schools. These conversations will give committee members the opportunity to review the history of course offerings at the Global Academic Centers. While every course/instructor at the Global Sites has been approved by a department or school on the Square, it is useful to have a process

for reviewing course offerings on a consistent basis; also, departmental leadership changes frequently, and meticulous records of reviews have not been kept. The Office of Global Programs will now keep a detailed log of all Global course reviews.

After the global curriculum discussions take place in each school, the SSACs will be able to discuss academic synergies between schools and departments at the Sites.

ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The committee discussed the online assessment tools currently used by the Office of Global Programs, e.g., course evaluations, program/site evaluations, and evaluations of the pre-departure orientation process. In addition to the assessments conducted by Global Programs, NYU Berlin administers a goal-setting exercise to students during orientation, as well as mid-term course evaluations. Any concerns that are surfaced during this process are addressed, in coordination with the Square. It was agreed that both the goal-setting template and the mid-term evaluation form would be circulated among members of the committee. This local assessment practice may be considered as a model for other sites.

Quantitative data for all global course evaluations are accessible through the NYU Berlin Site-Specific Advisory Committee website: <https://sites.google.com/a/nyu.edu/nyu-berlin-advisory-committee/>. It was observed that while this transparency was welcomed by the site, faculty contracts had to be adjusted as a result. This is an important reminder of how policies affect sites, sometimes in unanticipated ways.

NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WEBSITE

The Office of Global Programs and the Office of the Provost are developing a website to help students understand the academic policies that are in place at the Global Academic Centers. In some instances (e.g., attendance), the Centers have policies that do not exist on the Square. Other policies (e.g., pass/fail) may simply vary by school, an issue that the Undergraduate Deans are now exploring. Committee members were asked to review the draft website and to provide feedback.

GLOBAL CURRICULUM AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Matthew shared with the group a draft of a new Global Curriculum and Faculty Development Fund (GCFDF). This 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 new grant will launch in spring 2014. In the meantime, the Square's longstanding Curriculum Development Challenge Fund (CDCF) has generously earmarked three grants for global faculty for this transition year. Committee members from Berlin asked if it might be possible for the application deadline to be postponed. [Subsequent to the meeting, the deadline

for global faculty who are interested in applying for a CDCF grant was extended to January 10, 2014.] Other members suggested that while department chairs must sign off on proposals, they should be encouraged to share the proposals with their departmental faculty. Matthew asked the committee members to get back to him with any further suggestions for improving the draft of the new fund.

SITE STAFF

Gabriella Etmektsoglou provided the following overview of the staff in Berlin:

- **Dr. Roland Pietsch (Assistant Director for Academics):** Roland assists the Director in the delivery of the academic programs and is responsible for managing the provisions of student and faculty services. Before joining NYU in 2011, he taught modern history at the University of London (Queen Mary) and worked as a historian for television documentaries. He has published widely on maritime and youth history; his current research project investigates the connection of masculinity and mental health among sailors in the 18th/19th-century navy, which is supported by a fellowship of the British National Maritime Museum.
- **Linn Friedrichs (Assistant Director for Student Life):** Linn joined NYU Berlin in August 2011 and is responsible for all student life-related issues, including housing, student welfare, cultural events, travel, immersive programming and other activities. Linn has studied in Berlin and New York City and holds an M.A. in American Studies, Modern History, and Political Science. As her academic interest largely revolves around the politics and poetics of urban space, her MA thesis looked at New York City's *High Line* through the lens of Henri Lefebvre's theory of the production of space, touching on aspects of 21st century urban space, community revitalization, and the urban power struggle.
- **Loren Lazarony (Accounting and Operations Manager):** Loren started at NYU Berlin in April 2012 and assists the Director in providing financial oversight for NYU Berlin including budget planning, accounting and financial reporting. He has a degree in Business Administration and also holds certifications in project and IT management.
- **Dr. Janice Abarbanel (Wellness Counselor):** Dr. Janice Abarbanel has been NYU Berlin's Wellness Counselor since Fall 2011. She provides counseling and wellness programming for NYU Berlin students. Janice is a licensed Clinical Psychologist in Washington, D.C. where she worked for many years with international families and students and with U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers. She has lived and worked abroad and brings to Berlin her expertise with the emotional challenges that often accompany intercultural exchanges. She welcomes "wellness" as a guide for engaging with change.
- **Denise Uhl (Language Coordinator):** Denise is responsible for the German language

program at NYU Berlin. She coordinates the language courses and implements a variety of extra- and co-curricular activities including tutorials and language-based field trips. Denise has a degree in German Studies from the Free University of Berlin. She joined NYU Berlin in September 2009.

NYU Berlin has traditionally enrolled 70-100 students per term. While some courses take place outside of the academic center, it is currently able to accommodate approximately 100 students. Last spring, the site reached capacity (95 student beds are available in the dormitories), and enrollment for this spring term has also reached capacity.

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Gabriella also provided a brief overview of the academic partnerships at NYU Berlin (the list is posted on the Committee website). Committee members then discussed a number of additional institutions with which NYU Berlin might partner, including universities in Hamburg, Munich, and Zurich. Given limited time, it was suggested that this discussion be continued at the next meeting.

NEXT STEPS

- Committee members will get back to Matthew with any suggestions/revisions they have for (a) the assessment surveys (especially additional or different questions for the overall program/site evaluation), (b) the draft of the new Global Curriculum and Faculty Development Fund, and (c) the new academic policies website.
- Gabriella will circulate among the committee the goal-setting template and the mid-term evaluation form that are used at NYU Berlin.