

NYU Berlin Site-Specific Advisory Committee
Inaugural Meeting: October 9, 2013 (8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EDT)

IN ATTENDANCE

- David Darts (Steinhardt)
- Tom Ertman (CAS – Sociology)
- Gabriella Etmektsoglou (Site Director – NYU Berlin)
- Alys George (CAS – German)
- Allyson Green (Tisch)
- Karen Hornick (Gallatin)
- Kevin Kuhlke (Tisch)
- Jason King (Tisch)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost’s Office)
- Chris Schlottmann (CAS –Environmental Studies)
- Jochen Steinbicker (NYU Berlin – Sociology)
- 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 Berlin.

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)

SITE OVERVIEW

NYU Berlin Site Director Gabriella Etmektsoglou provided the group with an overview of the Site that covered the following areas:

- **Facilities:** The recently renovated academic center, “KulturBrauerei,” provides students with extensive resources just north of Berlin’s city center. It also houses a spacious Global Research Institute that offers graduate students and faculty from New York and the portal campuses the opportunity to spend up to one year in residence pursuing their research. Gabriella noted that, through its close collaboration with Steinhardt, the Site has attracted a large number of Studio Art majors over the past two years and has outgrown its studio space as a result. NYU Berlin is currently renting temporary studio space as it considers a new studio space that could be available to students as early as November 2014. Students live in a new residence hall in Kreuzberg (approximately 20 minutes from KulturBrauerei), which offers a total of 98 beds. Home-stays are also available should the residence hall capacity be reached.
- **Site history:** Tom Ertman, joining the conversation by telephone from Berlin, explained that he approached Global Programs with the idea of creating a site in Berlin. With most of its sites in Europe, Global was then focused on developing non-European academic centers. Nevertheless, working with FAS and Humboldt University, Tom helped launch a spring-semester program in 2006. Because of its popularity with students, the program expanded to the full academic year in 2009. Gabriella noted that since 2010, the site has deepened its relations with the German Department, Sociology, Steinhardt Studio Art, Gallatin, and Environmental Studies.
- **Humboldt University Relationship:** Jochen Steinbicker, a Professor at Humboldt University and NYU Berlin instructor in Sociology (also joining by telephone), described the dynamic partnership between NYU and Humboldt students, including an NYU Berlin course in which half of the students are from Humboldt. He noted that the Sociology department is deepening its relationship with Humboldt at the graduate level as well, including research opportunities.
- **Student Services:** Gabriella described the extensive student services offered at the site, including a wellness center that provides counseling to students and a program titled, “Bridging Global Transitions,” which explores concepts of global citizenship and assists students in acquiring the skills necessary to effectively and meaningfully navigate a culturally-diverse world. The academic center arranges student trips (e.g., to Hamburg) that are academically oriented and have full faculty participation and oversight. Gabriella also noted that many opportunities are available through NYU Berlin, including collaboration with the Berlinische Galerie which co-sponsors a student exhibit at its main gallery each May.

- **Required Orientation Course:** Gabriella noted that the required orientation course has been a success. It currently comprises 15 contact hours and is a combination of lectures, panel discussions, visits to important sites, and seminars.

Committee members praised Gabriella and her staff in Berlin for their hard work and close collaboration with the Square in many areas.

KEY ISSUES

The committee discussed the following issues:

- **Avoiding the “NYU bubble”:** The Committee recognized three ongoing models at NYU Berlin that address a concern felt across Global Sites that students studying away are not engaged enough locally. In order to promote local engagement, NYU Berlin employs:
 - *Course collaboration:* Pairing Humboldt and NYU students enhances academic quality while simultaneously creating a local network for NYU students.
 - *Space collaboration:* NYU Berlin students have access to facilities at Humboldt University and the Universität der Künste.
 - *Direct enrollment:* Students with proficient language skills are able to enroll directly in courses in German universities and have access to their libraries.
- **Language study:** Gabriella noted that creative options are being explored to address the language-learning needs of students who are not majors in German, including a course on German for the Art Professions. Enrollments in language courses beyond the intermediate level are limited, but the German department is working with the site to address these low enrollments/limited language capacities.
- **Research Collaboration:** As an example of a successful use of the Provost’s Global Research Initiative, Gabriella cited a GRI-sponsored conference organized by Gallatin on migration and mobility, which is likely to lead to greater opportunities, such as additional courses and possibly a text book. The topic is also expected to attract students across multiple disciplines.
- **Efficient facilities planning:** Kevin Kuhlke noted that Tisch may be able to collaborate with the Universität der Künste or use other space to meet its facilities needs; but more consultation is required on Tisch programs.
- **Financial Aid:** Committee members agreed that financial aid options should be explored to accommodate needy students who wish to study away. The recently announced Global Pathways Scholarship program (detailed in the attached memo) gives students with need up to \$4,000, over and above the individual aid packages distributed by schools to offset the costs of studying away. The committee also agreed that work eligibility for students in Berlin needs to be better publicized. Because they are technically enrolled through Humboldt University, students at NYU Berlin can work beyond their academic terms (through February for fall students and through August for spring students). The Office of Global Programs will produce a work eligibility matrix for all Global Sites.

- **Faculty:** The Committee noted that there is a pause on faculty circulation as the schools' deans, as well as the Faculty Advisory Committee on the GNU considers this issue; Global Programs is also researching the related visa, tax, and labor issues. The Committee discussed ways of building stronger ties between NYU Berlin and the Square.
- **Cross-listed course credential requirements:** the Committee agreed to review cross-listed course requirements to ensure consistency among schools and departments.

NEXT STEPS

Committee members expressed a general agreement that meeting twice a semester would be desirable. The Committee agreed to focus on curriculum at the next meeting.