

Buenos Aires Site-Specific Advisory Committee Minutes
Thursday, December 11, 10:00– 11:30 am (EST)

In Attendance

Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
Georgina Dopico-Black (CAS Spanish/Portuguese)
Lisa Gitelman (Steinhardt)
James Macinko (GIPH)
Florencia Marotta-Wurgler (Law)
Linda Mills (Global Programs)
Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
Madeline Naegle (Nursing)
Lauren Plusch (Global Programs)
Anna-Kazumi Stahl (NYU Buenos Aires)
Alejandro Velasco (Gallatin)

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The committee considered whether to appoint a faculty chair, a question that the Faculty Advisory Committee on NYU's Global Network had raised. The committee did not feel a chair was necessary at the moment as long as committee members could provide agenda items. They agreed to revisit the topic next year when the committees are more formalized. It was noted that having a faculty co-chair would help facilitate faculty collaboration with global on all matters related to the committee.

CURRICULUM DISCUSSIONS

Members were reminded that over the next few months, global curriculum discussions will be conducted within schools and departments, since all courses at the sites are sponsored by departments and schools. These conversations will give committee members the opportunity to review course offerings at the sites. 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, as well as new courses and academic programs.

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

The new Global Curriculum and Faculty Development Fund (GCFDF) was shared with the group. 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. The deadline for global faculty who are interested in applying for a CDCF grant has been extended from mid-December to January 10, 2014, at the request of another SSAC.

ACADEMICS

The Buenos Aires site currently has twenty-five faculty members on its roster although the number teaching each semester is dependent on the student enrollment and courses offered. During Fall 2013, the site had 21 faculty members (including Silvia Luppino, Spanish Language Coordinator, and Anna-Kazumi Stahl, Interim Site Director) offering 25 courses. The majority of faculty who teach the upper level topics courses are Argentine professors affiliated with prestigious local universities such as: 1) University of Buenos Aires, 2) University of San Andres, 3) University Torcuato di Tella. Additionally, most are members of CONICET (National Scientific and Technical Research Council) – an established Argentine research council.

The majority of courses offered at NYUBA fall under the humanities umbrella; other subject areas include banking, international relations and experiential learning. There is also an emerging focus on public health/health classes such as epidemiology. This course was canceled for fall 2013 due to low enrollment but will be offered in Spring 2014. Often, course cancellation resulting from low enrollment relates to the need to enhance academic advising and pathways. The Spring Site-Specific meetings will address these issues: the first spring meeting will focus on cross-listing courses and finding those overlaps and connections between departments; the second Site Specific meeting in the spring will focus on curriculum, recruitment and advising. The priority for meetings this year was to help faculty at the Square learn more about the current curriculum at the sites – which the series of meetings this year should accomplish. Beginning in the spring, departments and committees should begin to engage in horizon planning.

FACULTY

There is much interest in determining the best way both to work with and to leverage the expertise of the faculty at NYUBA. MCC was used as an example of how this work is done well. The Director of Undergraduate Studies for MCC works closely with faculty at the sites to ensure alignment with the departmental curriculum and with the changing interests of students/the department. This is accomplished with the support of Steinhardt and through site

visits, which include meetings with faculty, staff and students. The key lesson is that we need to institutionalize this kind of review process in order to maintain a high level of departmental engagement in the global curricular offerings.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The committee discussed Experiential Learning in Buenos Aires, which has been a longstanding offering/option at the BA site. Anna will provide the committee with a summary of Experiential Learning at the site (see “Experiential Learning at Buenos Aires”). This discussion should be revisited at the Spring meeting.

NEXT STEPS

Committee members will review the materials distributed at the meeting and provide feedback.