

NYU Buenos Aires Site-Specific Advisory Committee

November 11, 2014 9:30 – 10:45 EDT

Attendees

Lisa Gitelman (Chair, Steinhardt)
Alejandro Velasco (Chair, Gallatin)
Bernadette Boden-Albala (GIPH)
Georgina Dopico-Black (CAS, Spanish and Portuguese)
Tyra Liebmann (Global Programs)
Linda Mills (Global Programs)
Kristine Mish (SPS)
Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
Madeline Naegle (Nursing)
Patricio Navia (Liberal Studies)
Chris Nicolussi (Global Programs)
Cyrus Patell (NYUAD)
Luis Pena (Global Programs)
Susan Rogers (CAS, Anthropology)
Matthew Rohrer (CAS, Creative Writing)
Gail Segal (Tisch)
Adina Schick (Steinhardt, Applied Psychology)
Lucas Siga (NYUAD)
Anna-Kazumi Stahl (NYU Buenos Aires)

Welcome and Introductions

The Committee Chairs welcomed everyone to the meeting and began with introductions. Two Global School Liaisons, Gail Segal from Tisch and Kristine Mish from the School of Professional Studies, joined the meeting, in addition to Chris Nicolussi and Luis Pena from the Office of Global Programs.

Site Update

Anna provided the committee with a brief update on the site and highlighted the upcoming networked courses – “Street Art and Politics” and “Queer Cultures and Democracy”. The Queer Cultures course began as a colloquium and progressed into a full course. There is potential for new projects at the site, and they would be interested in learning more about the process and resources for new program proposals.

Course Approval Process

Global Programs worked on a process chart which outlines the steps that departments/schools will take to offer a new course at a global site. The office will work

on a similar chart for new programs as well as compile a list of the available resources that sites and departments can use to support courses, programs and collaborations.

Advising Ideas

After the last Site-Specific Advisory meetings, the Office of Global Programs collected the advising ideas generated across all of the committees. One of the goals of this exercise was to develop possible strategies to help students approach study away purposefully and from the perspectives of “what year am I in,” “when should I study away” and “how can I study away.” The committee recognized that there are two primary populations of students who must be reached: those that come into the University with a major and those students that must determine their major. The challenge is finding effective ways to reach each population of students, in particular freshman, sophomores and those without majors.

The committee had a few additions to the summary of advising ideas. First, departments could be more flexible with course sequencing – for example, courses that are offered in New York sequentially could be taken concurrently at the site. This could help students achieve minors, and have the potential to attract students to take required classes while away and/or in the Fall semester. Second, Schools such as the College of Arts and Science have major and minor fairs; the Office of Global Programs should be present at these events to help advise students on Global Programs offerings. Last, the Office of Global Programs could share lists of admitted students with GCs/Department/School contacts so they can reach out to admitted students in advance of their semester away and discuss courses, major requirements and minor possibilities. Additionally, sharing lists that indicate language abilities could help departments determine whether to offer courses in English, Spanish or both.

By Spring 2015, the Office of Global Programs plans to launch a new website landing page for advisors and students that is user-friendly and visually engaging. The office is currently working to develop one significant piece of new functionality, the “Site Finder,” which when completed, will provide the ability to indicate areas of academic interest, desire to study a language, and interest in internship opportunities. The user will then be presented with a list of which sites match their interests. This list of results would then link to course lists for their respective site(s). With greater predictability of courses and more accessible information, Global Programs is anticipating that more students will plan their study-away semester purposefully and in advance.

Site Identity

The committee discussed the site identity of the Buenos Aires site and how it relates to the academic offerings. The academic areas which the committee associates with the site include urban arts, the cosmopolitan city, and social justice – many of these themes pull from the relationships between Law, Social and Cultural Analysis, and the Global Institute for Public Health, in addition to the dynamic atmosphere of Buenos Aires. The

Buenos Aires site could further develop these “affinity areas” as a way of attracting students with specific curricular and co-curricular interests. Additionally, as programs such as GIPH further develop their undergraduate programs, the site identity could be enhanced further.

Reevaluating site identity provides the opportunity to examine the curriculum at the site and also look for areas that will both enable consolidation and innovation. This exercise is beneficial for revising the Global Orientations course, which is required of all students and regularly gets poor evaluations. This mini-course can be reinvigorated by leveraging the site identity, opposed to the site location.

To connect faculty between New York and the site and to facilitate a greater understanding of the site, the Spanish department invited the BA faculty to attend one of the Spanish department meetings (by video conference).

Anna feels a cohesive and clear site identity will be of great value to the site and act as a center of gravity for courses, the site environment and co-curricular offerings. Anna added that the site’s size and the physical structure are also aspects of the site identity and enhance the collegial and warm environment and tailor-made programming possibilities that exemplify the Buenos Aires experience.

Enrollments

Across the global sites, enrollments tend to be lower in the Fall semester. By working with departments and being intentional about course offerings (i.e. offering courses appropriate for Juniors who study away in the fall), the Office of Global Programs expects that Fall enrollments will increase over time.

All students are now eligible for the need-based Global Pathways Scholarship which should help increase the accessibility of the site to students with financial need. To ensure that students take advantage of the scholarship, Schools and advisors need to have materials so they can publicize the opportunity. Global Programs will ensure this scholarship is well advertised.

Despite fluctuations in enrollments, the NYU Buenos Aires site is fairly stable in terms of its faculty. The site is fortunate to have many dedicated faculty members who are associated with the CONICET (Argentina’s National Scientific and Technical Research Council).

Co-Curricular Opportunities

The site offers its students a variety of co-curricular activities and opportunities to connect with local students. Examples include:

- Access to Buenos Aires’ array of galleries and museums with specific contact to curators, gallery owners, and education & cultural outreach departments.

- Access to lectures, special working sessions and social events at local Universities with local University students
- Being a creative writing and literature Mentor at a bilingual high school through Gallatin's "Great World Texts" program replicated at NYUBA
- Placement in internships for academic credit – Students have two types of internship opportunities: 1) CAS internships which are 10 hours per week and 2) GLS Experiential Learning internships
- Placement at organizations for volunteer community service – this program ensures a sustained commitment mutually between the student volunteers and the local organizations. This is in addition to pinpoint community service actions that are one-offs and open to all.
- Spanglish – A meet and greet event with local University students to practice language skills.
- Participation in community service programs along with local Universities

Cross-Listing

Before the end of the meeting the committee briefly discussed cross-listing. While there is interest in cross-listing courses, some expressed that cross-listing between schools can be perceived as a cumbersome process, so there is some need to strategize and assist on this point when helpful.

Topics for Next Time

- 1) Site identity / Feedback on the draft
- 2) Information on new programs and courses; process for consolidation
- 3) Cross-listing courses

Next Steps

- Global Programs will put together a flow chart/process for new programs, conferences and other co-curricular projects.
- Global Programs will compile a list of resources for faculty, site staff and global staff who wish to develop courses and co-curricular offerings.
- Lisa, Alejandro and Anna will get together and draft a description of the site identity. They will then distribute to the committee for input, reactions/revisions and enhancements.
- Once revised, Global Programs will distribute advising ideas to the Global Coordinators and other faculty engaged with Global.
- Global Programs will help create materials to publicize the Global Pathways Scholarship.