

Buenos Aires Site-Specific Advisory Committee Minutes
Thursday, October 10, 3:00– 4:30 pm (EDT)

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)
Lauren Plusch (Global Programs)
Anna Kazumi Stahl (NYU Buenos Aires)
Alejandro Velasco (Gallatin)
Global Academics Team

INTRODUCTIONS

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

FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE

Linda Mills opened with background on the formation of the Site-Specific Advisory Committees (SSACs), which resulted from conversations with site directors, deans, departments, and faculty, as well as with the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network and the GNU Initiatives Committee of the Faculty Senators Council. The SSACs are designed to promote discussions between faculty from schools/departments that have academic partnerships in Buenos Aires and to foster cross-school communication in curricular and related global site planning. Meetings will be informal in nature to encourage discussion. The Office of Global Programs will respond to all data requests.

More information on the formation of the SSACs can be found here:

<http://www.nyu.edu/global/global-academic-partnerships-and-affiliations/faculty-discussions-on-global-sites.html>).

Key Issues

Faculty

- In Buenos Aires, the faculty was enthusiastic to learn that New York is seeking greater engagement with the site. Most BA site faculty are employed full-time elsewhere creating a unique network of experienced intellectuals and professionals with much to offer students.

- Faculty members in BA are hired on a per semester basis. However, the site is fortunate to have a high retention rate and low turnover among its faculty.
- The new Law School program has brought esteemed Law-related faculty into the BA circuit; they are very engaged and interested in the site. The introduction of the Law program and the professionals it has attracted is a great opportunity for the site, including possible cross-disciplinary points of contact with the current NYUBA faculty members and the site's academic partnerships through the SSAC.
- The BA faculty are very interested in a joint Skype meeting with the Spanish and Portuguese Department. The SSAC and language instructors are other groups that would benefit from this exchange. Connecting faculty at the site to faculty on the Square could facilitate new courses, innovative partnerships and better communication.
- Listed below are the faculty Anna highlighted as already engaged with the New York. These faculty emphasize some popular components of the BA program:
 - Mariano Lopez Seoane (Spanish Language/Literature) for his LGBTQ work
 - Florencia Malbran (Art History) in relation to Gallatin's proposed shared course *Cities and Art and Social Movements*
 - Mariano Turzi (International Relations) regarding the Guantanamo Project
 - Lovisa Erikson (Experiential Learning) for GLS to develop *Experiential Learning* courses for both semesters
 - Anna Kazumi Stahl: working with Gallatin and their "Great World Texts" program for NYU students and public school students
 - Silvia Luppino, Spanish language coordinator, who has recruited area-specific language instructors:
 - * such as Pablo Carrasco for *Spanish for Health Professionals*
 - Maria Pirovano Peña, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, who developed the Faculty Networking program, which facilitates three or more professors' joining their courses for a cross-disciplinary lecture or excursion.

Research

- With the strength of the BA faculty, there is interest on the Square in connecting with them to pursue joint research projects. This exchange will also create opportunities for students to undertake research projects in multiple locations, cultures and languages.

Enrollment

- The site is experiencing low enrollment in upper-level Spanish language classes and area courses (literature, history, cultural studies, etc.) taught in the Spanish language. There should be a strategy to grow enrollment with this group.
- The strategy of enhanced collaborative pathways is seen as a great possibility for reversing this decrease in overall enrollment recently experienced in BA.

- Enrollments in J-Term and summer have increased and are now higher than semester enrollments. It would be helpful to look at courses offered during these intersessions and compare them to semester offerings. It is also helpful to look into ways of enabling/encouraging the visiting programs to also engage during the regular semesters.

Advising

- Having BA staff become more attuned to major and minor requirements at the square will encourage academic planning. More knowledgeable advising at the site can also be improved by having stronger relationships with advisors in New York.

Courses/Curriculum Development

- It would be helpful to have knowledge of courses offered by partners in New York to identify which courses are similar (between departments), which are redundant (with courses at the site) and which might be modified.
- “Networked Courses”—There should be a means for courses to connect across the GNU, not just with NY. These could be themed based (migration, disease, translation) and would encourage cross-listing and inter-school and department collaboration.
 - This type of course could be a “joint pathway”
- This is a site with great potential. It is important to take the time to plan, articulate the pathways and reinforce interoperability with New York.

Language Requirement

- As with any site located in a non-English-speaking country, there is a challenge balancing courses taught in English vs. Spanish.
- Internships often require language skills; what are the options for students who do not have sufficient Spanish-language background (e.g. specialized courses in health, law, etc.)? NYUBA has developed short-term tutorials for students who will go into internships and/or with other specific needs such as Law or Health; this could be further developed via the site's academic partners in NY.
- Might we draw on connections with the law school to build new internship opportunities for English-speaking students?

Connections/Partnerships in BA

- There is significant interest in building an even more robust internship program in Buenos Aires expanding on the already active one successfully in place. It would be ideal for departments to build institutional partnerships that could be used not only for courses but also internships.
- Opportunities for Public Health partnerships are numerous and solidifying reputable partnerships would be a compelling reason for students to enroll in BA and for the various public health departments to invest more in the site.

- One idea is to create an issue-based course which surveys/studies different local institutions so that students can learn about infrastructure and government.

Spotlight: Buenos Aires

- Buenos Aires is the only international site in a time zone similar to New York. NYU and Buenos Aires have the opportunity, through technology, to have simultaneous engagement that is limited in other global sites.
- As the only site in South America, NYU NY and BA can use the BA site to explore regional opportunities and issues (e.g. Brazil).

Questions

- How are we describing BA to schools and departments?
- How do we cultivate partnerships with BA-based institutions and organizations from New York? Could Anna help introduce faculty to Public Health organizations? Could other members of the committee open doors to BA-based institutions/organizations?
- Is it possible for all Spanish majors to study abroad in either BA or Madrid? How could this happen?
- Can BA become a Global Research Initiatives (GRI) site? (In recent years, NYUBA has hosted 3 GRI projects.)
- How do we engage more graduate students at the site?

Next Steps

- Return to departments, advising staff and DUS and discuss in greater detail what a partnership with Buenos Aires should look like, ideas for courses at the site, and connections they would like to pursue.
- Building on these discussions with departments and advising staff, present a profile/presentation showing what each committee member's school/department wants to invest in the BA site and what they hope to accomplish there (in 5 – 6 weeks).
- The committee needs to focus on what distinguishes the BA experience from other global experiences.
- Consider whether other areas of growth should include LGBTQ, cities, and creative writing.
- Connect the BA faculty with counterparts on the Square.
- Create a faculty research profile of the local faculty so faculty on the Square can connect with faculty in BA and students can see faculty profiles/research areas.