

Florence Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 6, 2014 9:30-10:45am

Saadiyat Conference Room, 19 Washington Square North

Attendees

- Chris Flinn (Committee Chair; CAS - Economics)
- Delia Baldassarri (CAS - Sociology)
- Momette Broderick (CAS - Art History)
- Virginia Cox (CAS - Italian Studies)
- David Darts (Art - Steinhardt)
- Bruce Edelstein (Florence)
- Hallie Franks (Gallatin)
- Giampiero Gallo (Florence)
- Brendan Hogan (Liberal Studies)
- Karen Krahulik (CAS)
- Rebecca Morton (NYUAD)
- Gail Segal (Tisch)
- Bob Squillace (Liberal Studies)
- Ellyn Toscano (Site Director)
- Josh Tucker (CAS - Politics)
- Deb Willis (Tisch - Photography & Imaging)
- Shamoon Zamir (NYUAD)

Advising Ideas Summary

Chris Flinn, the Faculty Chair, opened the meeting with introductions of the Committee Members and Global Liaisons.

The Committee then turned to the Advising Ideas Summary handout, which was distributed in hard copy and electronically. The Summary compiles ideas discussed across all of the Site Specific Advisory Committees at the last round of meetings in October, during which several common themes emerged. Members discussed these ideas and emphasized the importance of:

- Targeting Freshman and Sophomores through presentations at Freshman dorms and through a Signature Global Event, which would ideally be held in the spring term.
- Communicating and advising students on study away opportunities, especially for disciplines that do not have a global focus. This may be most effective as a joint effort between individual departments and the Office of Global Programs.

- Ensuring that course offerings at the site are appropriate for the cohort of students going, and that students are advised of their options in advance. This is especially important for departments with strict sequencing of requirements. Some Members also suggested conducting an internal survey of majors to assess interest in study away opportunities and to help inform the curriculum.
- Training a faculty member in each department to advise students on study away opportunities and/or courses at a particular site.
- Thinking strategically about structural programmatic development as a means to encourage study away. This may include:
 - Pathways for majors
 - Minors (4 courses), where all or most of the courses could be completed at the site.
 - Certificates (2-3 courses), of which there are two types:
 - State-recognized certificate – must be approved by New York State.
 - Certificate of Attendance – can be offered without state approval.
 - Required semester abroad for certain majors, if academically appropriate.
- Utilizing Global Arch, which is currently being piloted in CAS and Liberal Studies, to help students plan for study away. Global Arch will be particularly helpful in encouraging students to study away at the appropriate time for their academic interests.
- Working with CAS advisors and Faculty Fellows in Residence to help advise first- and second-year students.
- Improving visibility of study away advising on the Academic Resource Center’s website.

Program Assessment

The Provost’s Office is revising the site evaluation, which was suspended last spring in anticipation of a new version being developed. The updated version will be shorter in length, will include questions on the academic program at the site (whereas the previous version focused primarily on student life), and will gauge student immersion and engagement at the site using objective measures.

The survey also aims to evaluate the value of study abroad as a whole, including how it may affect future academic performance. Though there has been limited research conducted on this topic, what is available suggests positive learning outcomes. The GNU is uniquely positioned to become a leader in this area. A committee comprised of Site Directors and faculty from Site Specific Advisory Committees will provide guidance to the Provost’s Office on this initiative.

Members noted that, in addition to surveys, it is helpful to utilize social media to solicit less formal feedback from students. As the site's Facebook page communicates important programmatic information to students, Members would like to explore other social media platforms to engage students. An NYU Stern student is also developing a website for students to talk about and compare the global sites, which may be useful to explore when it goes live.

Site Director Update

Ellyn Toscano followed with a brief update of the site, sharing that they had a very successful and engaging student trip to Brussels during the Fall Break. Approximately 25 students participated, and the program included 5 lectures and a visit to the United States Embassy.

Further Understanding Enrollments & Curriculum

Chris Flinn encouraged all members to take a deeper look at the Data Packet and to email him with any questions or suggestions for future meetings. Members agreed that the data was very helpful and that they would like to receive similar data at each meeting.

The Committee discussed several trends in enrollment:

- Fall and spring total enrollment numbers are generally even, which allows for more consistent planning and use of academic and residential space. However, Ellyn noted that the capacity of the site is elastic, and that classroom space and additional housing can always be added.
- The number of visiting students is decreasing, but is always higher in the fall.
- Liberal Studies, which will continue its current curriculum at the sites, has had consistent enrollment numbers since the program started.

Members noted that it is important to confirm that course offerings make sense for the cohort of students attending. It was noted that, from an academic perspective, many classes are most successful when there are at least 10 students in the class so as to facilitate group discussion. If any Members are concerned by a particular course or by a possible mismatch in course offerings, they are encouraged to reach out to Janet Alperstein in the Office of Global Programs.

Members also wondered whether courses taken while studying away inspired future major or minor declarations in that discipline. Global Programs will look into this and present its findings at the next meeting in the spring.

Course Proposal Procedure

The Committee discussed the procedure for proposing and selecting instructors for new courses at the site. Members noted that it was important to think of the site

holistically when designing new courses to ensure that they complement the existing curriculum.

Site Identity and Global Presence on NYU.EDU

Members spoke briefly about the identity of the site and the global identity of departments and Schools. Members agreed that it would be useful for the Global Programs website to have a centralized database for students to research course offerings and pathways, both by site and by department. Members also agreed that it would be helpful for departmental websites to list global course offerings and the pathways available for specific cohorts of students. CAS is in the process of updating departmental websites in this manner – [Environmental Studies](#) and [Journalism](#) have been completed and may serve as an example for other departments.

For the next Advisory Committee meeting in the spring, Global Programs will prepare a summary of the site's curriculum and the student cohorts it currently caters to in order to facilitate departmental website updates.

Next Steps

- Global Programs will prepare a similar Data Packet for the Committee with Spring 2015 courses and enrollment information.
- To help facilitate the updating of departmental websites, Global Programs will look at the courses currently offered at the site and give each department a summary of the cohort of students to which it is tailored.
- Global will do an analysis on how courses at the site impact students' choice of majors and/or minors.