

NYU London Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting

November 18, 2013

10:30am-12:00pm EST/3:30-5:00pm GMT

IN ATTENDANCE

Robert Boynton (CAS Journalism)
Mosette Broderick (CAS Art History)
Clay Curtis (CAS Psychology)
Chris Flinn (CAS Economics)
Jim Fraser (Steinhardt)
Michael Hattaway (NYU London)
Laura Levine (Tisch)
Linda Mills (Global Programs)
Vince Mitchell (NYU London)
Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
Sunder Narayanan (Stern)
Joe Pichirallo (Tisch)
James Polchin (Liberal Studies)
Catherine Robson (CAS English)
Gary Slapper (NYU London)
Global Academic Team¹

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND AREAS OF FOCUS

Committee members received a brief overview of possible areas of focus for the Site-Specific Advisory Committees (SSACs), including:

- Exploring opportunities for cross-school partnership and research
- Identifying potential relationships with local institutions/organizations
- Reviewing enrollment planning
- Developing strategies for student engagement/advising
- Communicating committee initiatives and decisions back to departments/schools
- Expanding opportunities for students and faculty at the Global Sites

The Committee also considered whether to appoint a faculty chair (a question raised by the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network). Those present agreed that Linda Mills should chair the committee until members decided they had the expertise to play a larger leadership role.

¹ Janet Alperstein, Hilton Hallock, Brock Johnson, Erin Kuhn

Committee members also requested that the Office of Global Programs develop a flow chart on the relationships between the various faculty committees related to the global network.

NYU LONDON SPRING 2014 ADMISSIONS

Members received an overview of students admitted to NYU London for Spring 2014, with the note that as the University continues to develop academic pathways at the Global Sites, capacity issues may arise. For Spring 2014, six sites (NYU London, NYU Paris, NYU Madrid, NYU Prague, NYU Shanghai, and NYU Berlin) reached maximum enrollment.

There was general agreement that one of the goals of the SSACs should be to develop a strategy to help students better plan for study away by suggesting ideal times within their academic program, particularly for departments with a “lock-step” curriculum (e.g., Psychology, Teaching and Learning); determining the ‘right size’ for NYU London and conducting horizon enrollment planning would be particularly helpful in this process. Questions arose about the ideal composition of students by year, whether or not it was beneficial to have more students study away as freshmen, and whether or not it was preferable to have students study for a semester or a full year. These are questions that SSACs will begin to discuss throughout this year, and particularly once we begin to review the curriculum across the sites (in the spring).

Members received an explanation of current capacity limitations at NYU London. There is some flexibility with classroom space by renting rooms from neighboring Birkbeck College; however, housing remains the primary limitation, although there may be options for increasing housing capacity in the future, which Global Programs is currently reviewing. Growth for London will be discussed in future meetings.

SUMMER/JANUARY PROGRAMS

It will be necessary to explore ways to attract interest in London during non-academic terms (summer and January terms) in order to address the housing capacity in London during those terms. The Office of Global Programs is working with the Office of Student Affairs to ensure that we are utilizing our housing resources across the global network. The Office of Global Programs will look more closely at the calendar of summer programs and/or will explore ways for interns or other groups to utilize housing during these lower-occupancy periods, working closely with schools and the site to develop academic programs for those terms.

Members asked about the possibility of making financial aid available to students who are interested in summer and January programs. We need to focus on students who have need and develop a financial aid program that is responsive to them. The Office of Global Programs, together with the school deans, is beginning to rethink the best way to approach summer programs and will explore the question of increasing financial aid as part of this review. The

Office of Global Programs will also work closely with the SSAC members to develop these new programs.

Members also expressed a desire to look at developing summer/January programs that utilize more than one global site.

CURRICULUM DISCUSSIONS

Members were reminded that over the next few months, global curriculum discussions will be conducted within schools, as each department/school has ownership over its global coursework. These conversations will give members the opportunity to review the history of course discussions within their schools as well as provide information needed to better understand current departmental/school course offerings at the Global Sites. In several cases, this review will build on processes already underway (e.g., Tisch, Stern), where school-based committees exist to review curriculum and other initiatives related to the Global Sites.

Moving forward, the Office of Global Programs will keep a detailed log of these curriculum discussions (i.e., who in each department/school reviewed the courses/instructors and when), so there is a historical record of these reviews.

After the global curriculum discussions take place within each school, the SSACs may wish to discuss cross-school/departmental collaboration.

ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The committee reviewed the online assessment tools currently used by the Office of Global Programs, e.g., course evaluations, program/site evaluations, and evaluations of the pre-departure orientation process. Committee members were asked for their feedback on these materials in order to improve evaluation efforts and ensure that useful information is collected for faculty.

The Office of Global Programs is exploring ways to evaluate students' experience studying away and how it influences their academic trajectory. Members suggested looking at students' GPA's before, during, and after their study away experience. It was also noted that a better understanding of students' GPA's, including both high and low performers, would be useful when analyzing evaluation data. In addition, members recommended culling data on students who spent their freshmen year at a site, and then returned to that same site during subsequent years.

NYU London members expressed the desire to better understand the profile of NYU students who study away at NYU London, including their GPAs and coursework they have completed. It

was also noted that NYU London faculty are expected to grade their students on a similar bell curve as is used at NYUNY.

It was announced that quantitative data for all global course evaluations is now online and accessible through the NYU London Site-Specific Advisory Committee website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/nyu.edu/nyu-london-advisory-committee/>

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Committee members expressed interest in bringing together students from their departments/schools to share thoughts on their study away experiences and also to explore opportunities for them to recruit other students from their departments/schools to the Global Sites. The Office of Global Programs coordinates the Global Ambassadors Program, which recruits student volunteers to serve as resources for prospective study-away students and their parents; however, these ambassadors are more site-focused than department-focused.

NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WEBSITE

The Office of Global Programs and the Office of the Provost are developing a website to help students (and faculty) 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 Committee was given a draft proposal for a new Global Curriculum and Faculty Development Fund (GCFDF). 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. [Subsequent to the meeting, at the request of the SSACs, the deadline for global faculty who are interested in applying for a CDCF grant was extended to January 10, 2014.]

Committee members were asked to review the proposed GCFDF guidelines and to provide feedback.

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Members were given an overview of NYU London's academic partnerships with local institutions, including very successful relationships with the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). Committee members were asked to submit ideas for new partnerships to Linda Mills.

NEXT STEPS

Committee members will submit feedback to Linda Mills in the following areas, if helpful:

- Key questions that should be included in global site/course/pre-departure evaluations
- New academic policies and procedures website
- New Global Curriculum and Faculty Development Fund

The Office of Global Programs will:

- Develop a flow chart on the relationships between the various faculty committees related to the global network.
- Continue to explore ways to assess the student study away experience.