

NYU Paris Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 2, 2017, 10:00am-11:15am

PCR (Bobst 1218)

Attendance

- Benoit Bolduc (FAS, French; Site Director, NYU Paris)
- Aurora Wallace – Faculty Chair (Steinhardt, Media, Culture, and Communication)
- Afrodesia McCannon (Liberal Studies)
- David Velleman (FAS, Philosophy)
- Judy Miller (NYUAD)
- Lisa Goldfarb (Gallatin)
- Stephane Gerson (FAS, History/Institute of French Studies)
- Mosette Broderick (FAS, Art History)
- Ronald Sadoff (Steinhardt, Music and Performing Arts Professions)
- Sofiane Bouarroudj (NYUAD)
- Almaz Zelleke (NYUSH)
- Ludovic Cortade (FAS, French)
- Beth Epstein (Assistant Director of Academics, NYU Paris)
- Eliot Borenstein (FAS, Russian and Slavic Studies; Senior Convenor, Global Programs)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Peter Holm (Global Programs)
- Libby Perkowski (Global Programs)

Site Director Report

The meeting began with introductions of new members. Benoit, Site Director at NYU Paris, went through his written report (distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting), taking note of several highlights:

- There are several new curricular developments at the site:
 - MCC is planning to accept 20-30 external transfer students to NYU Paris beginning in Fall 2018. These students would spend their first semester at NYU Paris and then continue in New York in the spring.
 - We are working with Tisch on a program that would be built off an existing Core/Dramatic Literature course on French Culture and Cinema and would consist of one, 3-credit Producing for Film course plus one special programs course.
 - The site is coordinating with the Pole Supérieur Paris Boulogne-Billancourt (PSPBB), a music school in Paris, to accept Steinhardt music students in the spring. PSPBB would be the third music school that has an agreement with NYU Paris, the other two being Ecole De Musiques Actuelles (EDIM) for jazz

musicians and Ecole Normale Cortot for classical musicians, and would provide needed additional instruction in Jazz and percussion.

- The site is very pleased that the Expressive Culture: Architecture in Paris Study (Art History and CORE, awaiting final approval) will be offered in Spring 2018.
- The site is currently in discussions to renew its partnership with Université Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne.
 - The partnership is important in that it allows NYU students to obtain visas for studying at NYU Paris and NYU faculty to lead summer and J-term programs at the site. The renewed partnership will aim to provide more opportunities for academic and faculty collaborations. NYU and Paris Sciences et Lettres (PSL), a consortium of universities and academic institutions in Paris, have recently signed an agreement to facilitate and provide a framework for collaborations and cooperations between institutions.
 - We would like to organize a joint conference and/or workshop in June 2018 for faculty from Paris 1 and NYU. “Climate Change” has been proposed as a possible theme, given Paris’s centrality in the global conversation, though other ideas are welcome. The conference could also act as a platform to stimulate conversation and interest between faculty.
 - The Committee was interested in the idea of a joint conference, and thought that Climate Change was a promising topic, especially since the sciences in France are typically conducted in English, which may mitigate potential language barriers to collaboration. The Committee also put forth the idea of Hospitality as a potential topic. Benoit also noted that Paris 1 is particularly strong in the areas of Law, Fine Arts and History. Benoit asked members to inform their departments of this opportunity and let him know if there are any other proposed topics and/or faculty interested in attending.
- The Lecturer Advisor program, in which students are divided into cohorts led by a lecturer from the site, has been very successful and transformed how the site conducts orientation. Lecturers now play a major role in orientation, communicating information to students in small groups, taking them on walking tours and meeting with them individually. Lecturers are more engaged with the site and students have a stronger academic anchor at the site to whom they can turn throughout the semester. Lecturer Advisors can also help to generate interest in classes that are under-enrolled early on in the semester.
 - The site is encouraging Lecturer Advisors to make connections with advisors in New York. Benoit asked the Committee to let him know whom in their department would be best to contact.

Course Clustering Proposal

Benoit and Beth Epstein (Assistant Director of Academics, NYU Paris) presented a proposal for the potential clusterings of courses at NYU Paris (distributed to the committee in advance of the meeting). Courses offered at NYU Paris have typically been listed by major and divided into those taught in French (Program 1) and those taught in English (Program 2). This method of presentation has made it challenging to communicate a cohesive site identity to students, and

difficult for students, especially those in horizontal majors, to develop unified program of study for their time in Paris.

The proposal suggested several potential clusters of existing courses at the site for the Committee's feedback, including: The City; The Presence of the Past; French Republicanism and Its Discontents; France In and Of the World; Music, Cinema and the Performing Arts; and Globalization and Paris Commodities. The clusters could help to ensure a balanced curriculum at the site, help students navigate the curriculum, and facilitate interdisciplinary course offerings. The articulation of cluster themes could facilitate the creation of 2-credit research project based on a cluster's theme, which would dovetail with the University's affordability priority. An "Honor's Track" for French speakers was also proposed, which could include certain immersive requirements, such as enrolling directly in courses at one of our partner universities in Paris.

Affordability

The site is proud of the strides it has made in Maison de l'île de France, a new residence hall at Cite Universitaire. The residence hall opened this semester and allowed NYU Paris to discontinue the use of Republique, which was previously the most expensive housing option. This move has allowed the site to bring down the cost of housing in all categories, especially for studios, the most expensive room category.

Local Engagement

- Cultural Calendar
 - The site has revamped its cultural calendar, offering a diverse selection of activities and events based on a point system. Students are each given 100 points that they can use to attend activities of their choosing.
 - The site is offering less programming, but has enhanced its communication with students, yielding better turnout. The site has created a well-designed booklet featuring all the semester's events, which can also be kept as a keepsake of their time in Paris. In addition, the site has created an intranet system to advertise programming and to track student interest and the effectiveness of its communications.
- Tandem Program
 - 80 students this semester have been paired with local parisian students to facilitate language exchange and local engagement.
 - The site provides opportunities to meet as a group, but also encourages students to meet on their own.
- Co-Curricular Activities
 - Each course now has an "in the city" component that facilitates local engagement within an academic framework.
- Housing
 - NYU Paris has 65 rooms at Maison ile de France on three different floors, allowing students to mix and engage with other French and international students. Each house at Cite Universitaire organizes its own cultural programming, which provides further opportunities for local engagement.

Program Evaluations and Data Packet

Benoit went through the Program Evaluations, noting that the site has shown improvement in cultural activities and academic support -- two areas that the site had been underperforming in previous evaluations.

Janet Alperstein walked the committee through the data packet and noted several trends:

- The number of juniors studying in Paris is increasing, while the number of sophomores are decreasing, which is the reverse of what other sites are experiencing.
- The Core offerings in the spring are often filled early, though there are usually seats available in the fall.
- Paris is developing a strong media cohort, which may provide opportunities for cross-listings and interdisciplinary offerings.

Announcements

- The Faculty Working Group on Global Learning Objectives (GLO) first convened in October 2016 for the purpose of having a faculty-driven conversation about global learning objectives. Comprising 17 faculty members from across the university, the committee met 8 times during the 2016-2017 academic year.

In May 2017, the committee issued a report on its findings (available on the NYU website [here](#)). The report articulates proposed learning objectives for study away for students across all disciplines so that the University can ensure program alignment and begin to measure its success in meeting these objectives.

The report was discussed at the Fall 2017 site directors meetings, and in Spring 2018 it will be discussed in a series of "global conversations" among faculty convened by Professor Eliot Borenstein, a member of the Working Group and the Senior Academic Convenor for the Global Network. As a leading institution in global education, NYU is well positioned to be advancing thinking and practice in this area, as well.

- Benoit announced that he will be finishing his assignment as Site Director of NYU Paris at the end of summer 2018. The committee thanked Benoit and congratulated him on everything he has accomplished at the site. The Associate Vice Chancellors will begin the selection process for a new Site Director soon.