

## **NYU Paris Site-Specific Advisory Committee**

*Inaugural Meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 (8:00 am–9:30 am)*

### **In Attendance**

Gerard Ben Arous (Courant Institute of Mathematical Science)  
Ed Berenson (History/Institute of French Studies)  
Benoit Bolduc (French)  
Henriette Goldwyn (French, NYU Paris)  
Deborah Landau (Creative Writing)  
Alec Marantz (Linguistics)  
Afrodesia McCannon (Liberal Studies)  
John Moran (NYU Paris)  
John Richardson (Philosophy)  
Susan Rogers (Anthropology)  
Andrew Romig (Gallatin)  
Ron Sadoff (Steinhardt – Music and Performing Arts Professions)  
Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt – Media, Culture, and Communication)  
Linda Mills (Global Programs)  
Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)  
Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)

### **Committee Structure and Formation**

Members were given background on the formation of the Site-Specific Advisory Committees (SSACs), which resulted from conversations with deans, departments, faculty, and site directors, as well as with the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network and the GNU Initiatives Committee of the Faculty Senators Council. The NYU Paris SSAC promotes discussion with faculty from schools/departments that have academic partnerships in Paris and fosters cross-school communication on developing academic programming in Paris, which will also include “affiliated” departments. The Office of Global Programs will supply whatever data/information is needed to help inform these conversations.

The majority of the SSACs have already met three times during this past academic year, and they have discussed a number of issues, including course offerings, pathways and opportunities. Two of these committees have already appointed a Faculty Chair. Our hope is that the others will follow by Spring 2015.

## **Introductions**

On behalf of their departments/schools, members of the Paris Advisory Committee introduced themselves and their department's relationship to NYU Paris.

## **Site Overview and Site Director Announcements**

Henriette Goldwyn, the Interim Site Director at NYU Paris for Academic Year 2013-2014, has been instrumental in developing the site's academic program and facilitating its relocation to Boulevard Saint-Germain. In June, John Moran will assume the role of Interim Site Director of NYU Paris for the Academic Year 2014-2015, including Summers 2014 and 2015. Benoit Bolduc has agreed to serve as Site Director of NYU Paris starting in the Academic Year 2015-2016 for a three-year term.

Henriette Goldwyn provided a brief overview of NYU Paris for Committee members, including: faculty, enrollment numbers, graduate opportunities, student housing, the new academic center on Boulevard Saint-Germain, experiential learning opportunities, and Global Research Initiatives (GRI) opportunities at the site.

Many Committee members had questions as to the total capacity of the new academic center and how the Paris site compares to other NYU global sites. The new Paris site can accommodate 400 undergraduate students, with additional space for faculty, staff, and graduate students, making it one of the largest of the global sites and comparable in size to NYU London (though more cohesive in its layout). However, capacity at the Paris site as at many of the global sites, is expandable based on relationships with housing companies and local institutions, where we can rent classroom space.

There will be a ceremony in Spring 2015 to celebrate the opening of the new academic center and we will keep the Committee updated on dates and planning.

## **Curriculum Reviews, Course Enrollments, and New Courses**

In Fall 2013, the Office of Global Programs began collecting and going through course evaluations and data with departments and faculty in New York. These curriculum discussions were an important initial step in ensuring that schools and departments have a sense of ownership over their global course offerings and confidence in the quality of instruction at global sites. They also gave schools and departments an opportunity to think strategically about their individual course offerings and more broadly in terms of shaping the direction of global sites.

Members were given a handout of *Course Offerings and Enrollment Numbers*, which lists all Fall and Spring courses for Academic Years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Members were asked to review the

handout and think about possible synergies amongst core offerings, as well as courses that may be added or removed.

Members noted that the SSAC serves as a good forum to generate cross-listing discussions and felt it was important to carefully review the course offerings with this purpose in mind. Historically, student flow has been primarily driven by the desire to study in Paris (as a city) and because of the good reputation of the program -- the development of curricular "pathways" and a clear articulation of course offerings will help students advance to degrees while also studying in Paris. Members raised the question of how best to achieve this goal, and whether it would be better for departments/schools to offer courses geared specifically to their departmental majors, or to offer courses that appeal to students more generally. To this end, members would like to see student data that provides a broader vision of which students go to Paris and the courses that they take. This information is forthcoming and will be ready for the next Committee meeting.

Members agreed that it was important for courses to include local inflections, including electives that focus on French culture. Several departments also expressed interest in offering a course that explored Paris within the context of globalization. Such courses already exist but more can be developed. The French Department requested a line in this year's APR focused on France, Francophony and globalization -- this future colleague may contribute significantly in coursework development along these lines.

Members also agreed that French language courses are an integral part of the program and contribute to the strength of the site. One-third of the courses at NYU Paris are taught in French and the site has long-standing relationships with several local universities. In addition, both French-speaking and non-French-speaking NYU students have the opportunity to enroll at these partnering universities, which offers meaningful interaction with French students. Members of the Committee should take a moment to review this list and add to it, if relevant, since we should discuss these partnerships more fully at the next meeting.

Some members noted the challenges they have encountered, such as finding qualified, English-speaking local instructors. Similarly, others have found it difficult to ensure that their department's teaching style and mission are properly translated at the global sites, and/or that they have adequate facilities, such as practice and play space for music students. Still others noted that many students (and faculty) may not be able to spend an entire Fall or Spring semester away, and so it is important to develop more opportunities for students and faculty during January Term and Summer. Global Programs stands ready to work with departments/schools to address these concerns.

## Next Steps

- In preparation for the next NYU Paris Advisory Meeting, Global Programs will:
  - Collect Committee members' existing contacts and connections with local institutions.
  - Collect data on students who go to Paris and the courses they take.
- At the next SSAC meeting in Fall 2014, the Committee plans to discuss:
  - Current and proposed courses and how to shape the curriculum at NYU Paris.
  - How to develop/add to existing institutional connections in Paris.
  - How to better utilize January Term and Summer to provide students and faculty opportunities to study/teach abroad for shorter periods of time.
  - Election of a Faculty Chair.