

Paris Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 10, 2014 - 11:00am - 12:15pm

President's Conference Room, Bobst 1218

Attendance

- Benoit Bolduc (French)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Sofiane Bouarroudj (NYUAD)
- Deborah Landau (Creative Writing)
- Tyra Liebmann (Global Programs)
- Alec Marantz (Linguistics)
- Afrodesia McCannon (Liberal Studies)
- Judy Miller (NYUAD)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- John Moran (NYU Paris)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- John Richardson (Philosophy)
- Susan Rogers (Anthropology)
- Andrew Romig (Gallatin)
- Ronald Sadoff (Steinhardt - Music and Performing Arts Professions)
- Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt – Media, Culture, and Communication)

Advising Ideas Summary

Benoit Bolduc, the Faculty Chair, opened the meeting with introductions. The Committee then reviewed 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 others, including:

- Targeting Freshman and Sophomores through presentations at Freshman dorms and through a Signature Global Event, which would ideally be held in the spring term.
- Including advisors at the Signature Global Event and/or the Global Bazaar, which is organized by Student Affairs.
- Working with Student Affairs to help mobilize students through the residence halls.
- 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.
- Ensuring that course offerings at the site are appropriate for the cohort of students going, and that students are advised of their study away options in advance. This is especially important for departments with strict sequencing of requirements.
- Developing a centralized database on the Global Programs website where students can research course offerings and pathways, both by site and by department.
- Updating departmental websites to include global course offerings and pathways.

Members also asked to look into the possibility of advertising global sites and/or pathways on Albert, depending on the courses a student selects. Global Arch, which is currently being piloted in CAS and Liberal Studies, may also be helpful in this regard.

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 also felt it would be helpful to reach out to alumni for their feedback on how study away affected their academic choices upon return to the Square and their career after graduation.

Site Director Update

John Moran give a brief update on new programs and courses at the site, including: Art History courses on the Renaissance and the Rococo; a Music Technology program and two new Philosophy courses set to begin in Spring 2015; a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Studies (CAMS) course set to start in Fall 2015; and a possible collaboration with École Normale Supérieure in Paris to offer Linguistics classes at the site.

The site is also set to hold its first big conference on November 13th and a series of inaugural events that John Sexton will attend on November 14th.

Further Understanding Enrollments & Curriculum

The Committee reviewed the Data Packet together and noted several enrollment trends. The majority of students studying abroad are currently in the junior year, though this may shift as pathways become more developed and departments tailor their courses to specific cohorts of students. It was also noted that, while there is still plenty of room for growth at the academic center, finding appropriate housing in Paris can be difficult and may pose challenges as the total enrollment increases.

In looking at the course enrollments, Members noticed that several classes are relatively small. 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.

It was also mentioned that smaller departments may have difficulty filling an entire class. Several ways of addressing this issue were suggested, including: making courses open to non-majors; waiving pre-requisites or offering co-requisites, if the syllabus allows for it; and cross-listing with other departments.

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

With a new academic center and the creation of departmental partnerships, there has been much discussion of site identity and how the site will grow in the future. The majority of the site's original curriculum was developed and sponsored by the French department, which is currently redefining its course offerings to accompany the development of pathways at the site. Approximately 20 percent (50 of the 250 students projected at the site for Spring 2015) are expected to enroll in Program II, and French Language will continue to grow as total enrollment at the site increases.

In addition, the number of visiting students, who are mostly in their junior year, has been decreasing as more NYU students apply to the site. Members wondered how this may affect the site identity, as visiting students are generally strong academically and contribute greatly to the program.

The Committee agreed to bring ideas and discuss site identity in more depth at the next meeting. Members also emphasized the importance of engaging the site's faculty in the decision, as many have a deep involvement with and long-standing ties to NYU Paris.

Next steps

- Members will prepare to have a more in-depth conversation on site identity.
- Global will prepare more information on developing a Signature Global Event.
- Global will look into ways to engage alumni as part of the site's program assessment.