

## **NYU Paris Advisory Committee Meeting**

*October 1, 2014, 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.*

*NoHo Conference Room, Bobst 1118*

### **Attendees:**

Benoit Bolduc (French)

Ed Berenson (History/Institute of French Studies)

Franco Ferrari (Law)

Deborah Landau (Creative Writing)

Alec Marantz (Linguistics)

Afrodesia McCannon (Liberal Studies)

John Moran (NYU Paris)

Susan Rogers (Anthropology)

Andrew Romig (Gallatin)

Ronald Sadoff (Steinhardt - Music and Performing Arts Professions)

Mosette Broderick (Art History)

Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt – Media, Culture, and Communication)

Judy Miller (NYUAD)

Sofiane Bouarroudj (NYUAD)

### **1. Committee Business**

#### **Introductions and Committee Meetings**

The meeting opened with introductions and a welcoming of new members. The committee agreed to hold only one meeting in the spring during the Site Director visit.

#### **Partnerships and Affiliations**

The definitions of partnerships and affiliations were reviewed with committee members. A partnership with a global site means that a school or department has a deep intellectual stake in a site and currently offers or is developing curricular pathways there. An affiliation with a global site means that a department or school currently offers or plans to offer at least one course at that site. The committee agreed that affiliates could be included in some future meetings, such as when the agenda focuses on the curricular planning and review of the site.

#### **Faculty Chair**

Benoit Bolduc was nominated to serve as the faculty chair of the committee; Benoit agreed.

## **AY 15/16 Course Lists**

The committee reviewed the course lists for Academic Year 15/16. It was noted that approving course lists early is critical to advising students on study away opportunities, and that Janet Alperstein would be in touch to discuss overall horizon planning with departments. The committee would like to see the data for January term and summer, as well as updates to the semester course offerings. Some members also saw opportunities for departmental collaboration, for example with MCC, Gallatin, and the new Music Technology program beginning in the spring.

Janet walked the committee through the “Top 4 Majors Course Enrollment” handout and explained how courses at NYU Paris are coded. Several members noticed that students’ course enrollments were spread out, suggesting that the site has an eclectic student body with diverse academic interests. This could be due to the fact that Paris, the city, is still one of the primary reasons students go to the site, something that may change as pathways become more developed.

Some members also wondered if there was less sense of community at NYU Paris, since NYU does not provide housing for most students. Many of the students studying in Paris are upper class students, who generally prefer to get out of the “NYU Bubble” and rent their own apartments, where they can experience living in Paris as a local. Other cohorts, particularly graduate students in the Law program, would prefer to have more help from NYU in securing housing. Global Programs also briefly discussed some potential housing options that have emerged, but finding suitable, centrally located student housing in Paris remains difficult.

## **Travel Opportunities**

Working closely with the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network and Global School Liaisons, the Office of Global Programs has developed a process for NYUNY faculty to propose short-term visits to the global sites. The central purpose of the visit will be to strengthen a school or department’s academic relationship with the site. Faculty who wish to apply for travel funds should work with their department chair and Global School Liaison to obtain sign-off, and with the site to accommodate the timing of their proposed visit, given all that is going on at a site at any given time. Pre-existing curricular conversations are not necessary when applying for funding, but the objective of the trip should be focused on furthering a school or department’s academic connections with the site. Funds can also be used to look at ways to partner with local institutions or programs. Further information can be found [here](#).

If faculty are looking to conduct research or conference activities at the global sites, funds are available through the University’s [Global Research Initiatives](#).

Finally, the newly-developed Global Faculty Fund (GFF) provides opportunities for site faculty to enhance the courses they teach, establish multi-site projects, pursue professional development opportunities, and travel to New York to strengthen relationships with their schools and departments. In order to take advantage of the GFF, local faculty will develop proposals that will be reviewed by a committee consisting of: one Site Director, one faculty member from a (different) global site, and two faculty members from New York who are currently serving on Site-Specific Advisory Committees

representing another two global sites. Members were enthusiastic about the opportunity to bring local faculty to New York to meet with colleagues in their departments. Further information on the GFF can be found [here](#).

### **Cross-Site Communication Mechanisms**

The committee discussed ways of ensuring communication between and among SSACs. One idea that was discussed was developing a 'cross-site committee,' with the chairs from each Site-Specific Advisory Committee. Members concluded that an annual meeting for this type of committee might be valuable, as it would allow for cross-site linkages and synergies to be discussed.

### **Emergency Response**

Emergency response protocols and the decision to suspend coursework at NYU Tel Aviv and NYU Accra for the Fall 2014 term were discussed with the committee. The University has made similar decisions in the past, such as when it decided to evacuate NYU faculty and graduate students in Egypt in 2010. Each decision is a collaborative process during which various members of the University community are consulted, including faculty, the Office of Risk Management, the Student Health Center, HTH (the University's evacuation partner), and site-based staff.

If there are any concerns in the future, the Faculty Chair on the Advisory Committee would be notified. John Moran also noted that on September 5th, NYU Paris submitted their evacuation plan, and they are meeting with other NYU global sites to discuss.

## **2. Update from Site Director**

John Moran began with an overview of NYU Paris's new academic center, which everyone is very happy with, though there are some minor issues to be worked out. They have recently hired a new IT manager and an assistant director of student life, who would be able to assist students in apartment searches. They are also looking to hire a new coordinator of language programs.

There are several events scheduled at the site, including a conference organized by Tom Bishop, as well as conferences hosted jointly by NYU Paris and Eyrolles, the book publisher located on the first floor of the building. These joint conferences typically feature authors and professors and focus on current events.

John also noted several new courses at the site, including a medieval art history course with 16 students, as well as two new philosophy courses. There is also a new CAMS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Studies) course being offered for the first time in Fall 2015, as well as a new program in Music Technology, beginning in the Spring. For the new music program, Steinhardt's Music Technology department has developed a close relationship with IRCAM, a premier institute in Paris for music and sound. As the committee begins to think about new programs and courses, it can be useful to work with existing institutions to provide resources and faculty.

In addition, there are about 30 or 40 students with varying levels of proficiency in French who directly enroll in courses at French institutions. However, direct enrollment often requires students to overcome several bureaucratic and logistical hurdles, such as: language proficiency requirements; misaligned academic calendars; later postings of course offerings in the host country; and having to navigate a different school's registration platform. The committee thought it would be helpful to try and understand the mechanics of enrolling at French Institutions to help make for a smoother process for students in the future. Global Programs will look into this and get back to the committee.

### **3. Advising**

The committee reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on advising, which had been distributed earlier to members, and discussed best practices. Several members thought it was important for Schools, departments, and even individual programs to have a strategy for advising students on study abroad. Members also noted that advising across and within schools can be uneven, and that the sophomore cohort warranted particular attention, as many are "in between" CAS academic advisors and departmental advisors. Committee members thought it might be helpful to learn more about how students are advised before they declare a major.

Members agreed that it was important to "plant the seed early" and to get students thinking about study abroad from an academic perspective, especially for sites that require language instruction. They suggested several ways of doing this: giving presentations at the freshman dorms; using the CAS Freshmen Cohorts as a forum; and using Steinhardt's zero-credit new student seminar course, for example.

Members also thought it would be helpful for students to have a "check-list" of considerations to prepare for study abroad, including languages instruction, prerequisites for courses offered at the sites, and pathways for their major. The website project could be helpful in this realm.

### **4. Next Steps**

- For the November meeting, Global Programs will provide:
  - Site enrollment by major and minor
  - Course and Program offerings in Summer and JTerm
  - Information on understanding the Mechanics of Enrolling at French Universities
  - Information on website development to help departments and Schools with advising
  - A list of all advising ideas that grew out of the Site-Specific Advisory Committees
- Items for discussion:
  - Support for Abu Dhabi students