

NYU Prague Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 30th, 2015, 10:00-11:15am

Saadiyat Conference Room

Attendees

Eliot Borenstein (CAS - Russian and Slavic Studies)

Jo Dixon (CAS - Sociology)

Chris Jaehnig (Tisch)

Sunder Narayanan (Global Liaison - Stern)

Joe Pichirallo (Tisch)

Jiri Pehe (Site Director)

David Schroeder (Steinhardt)

Gail Segal (Global Liaison - Tisch)

Carol Sternhell (CAS – Journalism)

Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt)

Site Identity and Web Tools

The Committee opened with introductions followed by a look at the site description currently posted on the [NYU Prague homepage](#). Committee Members agreed that the current description read well and suggested including some information about Tisch's program with the Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (FAMU), as well as some more cultural inflections, for example, the importance of hockey as a national pastime. Committee Members will send any additional feedback to Global Programs to incorporate into the site description.

NYU has been engaged in a University-wide project to develop an Academic Planner that helps students map out their course of study throughout their time at NYU. Responding to faculty requests to introduce this planner more quickly to the global sites, a parallel widget, the "Global Study Planner," has been created to inform students of the various Pathways and courses offered at the global sites, based on their disciplinary and language preferences. The Global Study Planner will be available on the Global Programs website and is designed to help students understand the opportunities available before meeting with their advisor. Members may test the Global Study Planner [here](#). Please let Josh Taylor know as soon as possible if you encounter any issues or inconsistencies. The website changes and Global Study Planner are scheduled to be live by the end of the Spring 2015 term.

In addition, Global Programs is in the process of reaching out to departments and Schools to develop pathway templates and academically focused printed materials. The pathway templates will help students identify the optimal time and place to study away on a specific departmental

pathway, and they can be posted on both the global and departmental websites. The content of the printed materials, which is provided by departments and Schools in New York, highlights the site identity, departmental course offerings, and Pathways at the global sites. The Global Study Planner, printed materials, and pathway templates are intended primarily for NYUNY students; NYUAD and NYUSH will develop parallel descriptions and websites tailored to the timing and requirements of that campus's curriculum.

Committee Members were enthusiastic about the web tools and printed materials and agreed that they will be helpful to students as they plan their academic career at NYU. The Committee agreed that acronyms should be spelled out on the Global Study Planner (e.g. listing MCC as Media, Culture, and Communication), and many Members also indicated that they would like to adjust how their departments or disciplines are listed. For example, "Music" could refer to programs in CAS or Steinhardt, so it is important to differentiate them in order to provide clarity to current and prospective students. In addition, Members also suggested that pre-health and the sciences should be added. All the materials shared with the Committee are still in development and are being refined based on faculty feedback.

Site Evaluation

A committee convened by the Provost's Office comprised of Site Directors and faculty from Site Specific Advisory Committees has redesigned the student site evaluation and piloted the new survey in Abu Dhabi and London. The new survey is shorter in length and aims to gauge the quality of both academic programming and student life at the global sites by asking students for more factual data rather than just their level of satisfaction.

The new pilot survey had a higher response rate than the previous survey, and received positive feedback. After a few minor adjustments, it will now be administered to all students at the sites (and study away students in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai) in May 2015. In addition, the survey committee is working on a pre-departure survey to capture student expectations and motivations prior to the study away experience. The two surveys may provide additional insight into the academic outcomes of study away and allow the University to analyze data from various perspectives (for example, by School, department, cohort, etc.).

In addition, the Provost's Office will convene a group to look at global learning outcomes more generally, and how we can assess them separately from surveys. The committee is also interested in looking into the study away outcomes after graduation, and how the study away experience may impact career choice and employment opportunities. With multiple disciplines and multiple sites throughout the world, NYU is uniquely positioned to become a leader in this field of research. The committee would like to draw on the University's information gathering expertise, as well as the contributions of any interested faculty, to ensure that the assessment adheres to the highest research standards to avoid selection bias and other methodological errors, as well as to ensure that the assessment asks measurable questions.

Global Leadership Scholars Program

The Global Leadership Scholars Program is a selective program developed by Global Programs and the Global Leadership Initiative and is set to launch at NYU DC in the spring of 2016. The program is open to all students at NYU Abu Dhabi, NYU Shanghai and NYU New York, and has already received 45 applications from NYU Shanghai students for 20 open seats. The Scholars Program could serve as a model for similar leadership programs at the other global sites.

Site Director Update

The Site Director, Jiri Pehe, reported that the semester was going well at the site. There are several new courses in development, including a new Expressive Sounds course sponsored by Steinhardt (to replace the Context and Cultures course being phased out), as well as a new course on Russia and Europe, which will hopefully be ready for Fall 2015. In addition, a new Assistant Director for Academics, Vanda Thorne, has recently been hired and will be in New York in June for training.

With NYU Shanghai circulation beginning next year, NYU Prague is excited to welcome at least 20 NYU Shanghai students for the Fall 2015 semester. Their addition has brought to light a visa challenge, but the site is working with local agencies to resolve this.

Data Packet and Announcements

The Committee briefly discussed the data packet and noted several trends, including:

1. Enrollment at NYU Prague continues to grow and is reaching capacity in the spring term even before the addition of NYU Shanghai students.
2. More sophomores are choosing to study away during the spring semester. As CAS students have not yet declared their majors at this time, it can be difficult to connect this growth with specific Pathways at the site.
3. Many students whose departments and Schools do not offer coursework at the site continue to study at NYU Prague and enroll in elective courses.

The following information was also announced:

1. The AY15/16 course lists were provided to Committee Members to bring back to their departments for review and discussion. Please advise global.academics@nyu.edu of any changes for AY16/17 prior to May 31st, so as to allow time for coordination with the sites.

If there are no changes, AY15/16 courses will rollover to the following year. AY16/17 courses will be posted online on July 1st.

2. A new diagram detailing the procedures for introducing new academic programs and courses to the sites was distributed to the Committee. Members noted that it should be made clear that these procedures are in addition to (and not instead of) any School-based requirements that need to be met before introducing a new course or program. Global Programs will update the diagram accordingly.
3. Members were informed that two new faculty discussions were underway:
 - a. *Europe* -- exploring ways European sites can collaborate with student trips, events, etc.
 - b. *Performing Arts* -- ensuring that arts programs are developed with a cost effective strategy and are not duplicated (e.g. studio space is used in both fall and spring).
 - c. Other suggestions included discussions on Public health and the Americas. These discussions will not necessarily be long-standing committees and will meet on an ad hoc basis.
4. The FAC-GNU committee has asked that Members share information discussed at the Advisory Committee meetings with their departments in order to engage all faculty on activity at the global sites.

Next Steps

1. Global Programs will update the NYU Prague homepage to add the FAMU program and other local inflections.
2. Global Programs will send Committee Members the program survey.
3. Global Programs will update the Course/New Program Procedure diagram to note that School and departmental policy and procedures must also be followed.