

NYU Prague Advisory Committee Meeting

October 2nd, 2014, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Leslie eLab, 16 Washington Place

Attendees:

Jo Dixon (CAS - Sociology)

Chris Jaehnig (Tisch)

Carol Sternhell (CAS – Journalism)

Joe Pichirallo (Tisch)

Jiri Pehe (Site Director)

David Schroeder (Steinhardt)

Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt)

Stephen Gross (CAS – European Studies)

Abdul Noury (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/or review of the site.

Faculty Chair

Eliot Borenstein was nominated to serve as the faculty chair of the committee; Eliot agreed.

AY 15/16 Course Lists

The committee will review the course lists for AY15/16. 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 inquired about the procedure for proposing new programs and courses at the global sites and asked for clarity on the process, the role of the Advisory Committee, and important dates to keep in mind. It was noted that, in addition to getting a course approved by the sponsoring School and/or department, it is important to make sure that the course fits into the overall curriculum and student profile of the site. Global Programs can help with this, and will work on a flow chart that details the process for the next meeting.

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 Site Director, Jiri Pehe was congratulated for his participation in the committee that developed the Global Faculty Fund (GFF), which 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 a one-day "Common Day" for Global Programs, when everyone involved in the Global sites could attend, or developing a 'cross-site committee,' with representatives from each Site-Specific Advisory Committees. Members concluded that these types of committees and/or events might be valuable, as it would allow for cross-site linkages and synergies to be discussed. That said, it would also be useful to look at other, already existing committees, such as the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network or the Global School Liaisons, to ensure that efforts are not duplicated.

2. Update from Site Director (Jiri Pehe)

Jiri Pehe began with an overview of the student body and upcoming events at the site. NYU Prague currently has 150 students enrolled and is expecting 200 students in the spring, which exceeds the site's current housing capacity. They plan to use a hotel across the street to house 25 students, which they have done in the past with great success.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Fall of Communism, and the site is hosting and co-hosting a series of conferences to commemorate the occasion. The conferences explore various aspects of present-day Europe and the Czech Republic, including the role of religion, the state of democracy, and the transformation of media over the last 25 years.

Jiri Pehe also highlighted several new programs and course proposals at the site. The current Core courses will be discontinued and replaced with a single course on Expressive Sounds, which will be taught by a music faculty member in conjunction with Mike Beckerman. This change is a university-wide policy decision that applies to the Core curriculum at the sites and on the Square. There is also a new Stern School of Business course, *IT in Business and Society*, has been added to the curriculum, bringing the total number of courses sponsored by Stern to four. With about 50 students from Stern at the site this term, business school students make up a fairly large cohort.

In addition, there is a proposal to add a FAMU course that would be open to all students and taught at NYU Prague, which could help integrate Tisch students with non-Tisch students. Tisch, Global Programs and NYU Prague will work together in a triangulated process to manage enrollments and ensure that students have the appropriate access to major and non-major courses. Similarly, there is a new music program beginning in Spring 2015 at NYU Paris. It was noted that the teaching style, cost of living, and performance culture differ greatly between Prague and Paris, and the music department will also be offering different courses. As a result, the music program at NYU Paris is not expected to affect the enrollment of the existing music program in Prague.

There are also several summer programs being offered at the site, including SPS program and two Tisch programs (one on stage design, and one on film), as well as two non-NYU-sponsored summer programs.

Lastly, Jiri mentioned that there have been a number of requests by outside institutions to visit the site and meet with professors. It would be helpful to think strategically on how best to accommodate these requests, especially since there will likely be more visits by NYUNY faculty, given the new travel funds discussed earlier in the meeting.

3. Advising

The committee briefly reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on advising, which had been distributed earlier to members. As pathways and affiliations continue to develop at the sites, ensuring that students are advised on the academic opportunities, requirements and prerequisites of the various programs at the study away sites will become increasingly important. It was also mentioned that the University is

piloting a new online planning tool, called the Global Arch Initiative Academic Planner, to assist students (and their advisors) in creating four-year academic plans, including study away opportunities.

4. Next Steps

- For the November meeting, Global Programs will provide:
 - Site enrollment data by major and minor
 - Course listings and enrollments, including Summer and January terms
 - 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
 - A flow-chart of the procedure for adding a new course and/or program at the site

- For discussion at the November meeting:
 - Advising at the Global Sites
 - Emergency Response