

NYU Sydney Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday April 2nd, 8:00 AM

Bobst 1218

Attendees

- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- John Burt (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Colby Hepner (Global Programs)
- Eugenia Carol Kisin (Gallatin)
- Richard Litvin (Tisch)
- Sonali McDermid (CAS – Environmental Studies)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Fred Myers (FAS – Anthropology)
- Gbenga Ogedegbe (School of Medicine & Global Programs)
- John Robertson (NYU Shanghai)
- Malcolm Semple (Site Director)
- Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt – MCC)
- Jini Kim Watson (FAS – English)
- Marion Wrenn (NYU Abu Dhabi)

Meeting Minutes

The director's report was distributed/reviewed in advance of the meeting; discussion centered on expanding or clarifying elements from that report.

Mal brought to the committee's attention the ongoing struggle to increase STEM student participation in order to help remedy the fall/spring semester imbalance, an imbalance that has persisted even after adding more science courses for the fall semester. Contributing factors to this trend may include the early timing of when students must decide for Fall (February of their freshman year) as well as concern about the potential negative effects of starting their science sequences abroad. In response, the committee decided to research the issue by engaging with the science departments to get a better sense of what students are looking for in their study away options. By following a similar internship/lab placements model as in Tel Aviv, Sydney could see an increase in enrollment given the value of students acquiring early lab experiences.

The meeting closed with a collective consensus that, in order to build stronger bonds within the cohort and build up NYU Sydney's identity as a unique study away site, there needs to be a concerted effort to highlight the uniqueness of Sydney and Australia through the courses that are offered. The idea of minors has been discussed numerous times, however, NYU Shanghai currently has an Australian Studies Minor they offer to students. So while minors may not be an ultimate fix, there should be further discussion on what is motivating students to select Sydney as a study away location and build upon that through focus groups.