

NYU Sydney Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting

March 12, 2014 (11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. EST)

IN ATTENDANCE

- Peder Anker (Gallatin)
- Kenneth Mitchell (Tisch)
- Fred Myers (CAS – Anthropology)
- Chris Schlottmann (CAS – Environmental Studies)
- Mal Semple (NYU Sydney)
- Diana Silver (GIPH)
- Paul Thompson (Tisch)
- Global Academic Team
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost's Office)

CURRICULUM DISCUSSIONS

This meeting focused on the academic development of NYU Sydney and how to continue to increase enrollments at the site. The committee reviewed the current course offerings at Sydney, discussed the broader academic goals that students have for studying away, and considered what is unique about the Sydney site experience.

To that end, the committee was also updated briefly on the global curriculum discussions that have been taking place in schools and departments on the Square, which ensure that schools and departments have a sense of ownership over their global course offerings, and that these offerings are coordinated with curriculum on the Square and are thus in line with department goals and objectives.

[Update: As of the distribution of these notes May 7, 2014, 95% schools/departments have reviewed the history of their curricular offerings (except Paris course offerings, which are currently being assembled in anticipation of the inaugural Paris Site-Specific Advisory meeting). Global Programs has been and continues to be in discussion with several schools/departments and sites about their course offerings in the global sites. If you have questions or feedback about these reviews, please let us know, as we have carefully tracked the responses. We will now make these reviews a regular (every semester) part of a process of engaging the departments on the Square in the global curriculum they sponsor, both through the partner departments and schools on the site-specific committees and for those departments with affiliations in the global sites.]

INTERNSHIPS

The site director reported that Sydney is undertaking an internship pilot program in Fall 2014 in partnership with CAPA International, an independent organization that provides

international education opportunities to students. CAPA International will help vet and secure a wide range of internships for the site, while also managing a number of issues such as insurance. Any student who pursues an internship will also be required to enroll in a course that, combined with the internship itself, enables students to receive four credits. The Office of Global Programs will manage the application and selection for the internship program in New York; this process begins the semester prior to enrollment, and in advance of course registration. The majority of internship courses are not specific to majors, but are instead open to all students who have placements at the site. Programs can sponsor internship classes that are subject-specific if the enrollments are large enough to sustain them.

The group then discussed how specific internship placements are deemed worthy of academic credit. It was noted that, at the portals, the DUS, Global Coordinator, or faculty advisor determines whether an internship should receive credit towards the major or minor (as opposed to elective credit). At the global sites, there is a similar process for getting internships approved. Thus, for a major elective, the department must sign off on the internship and the course.

Finally, the committee considered what the learning outcomes of internships should be. It was noted that these questions are also being explored by several faculty committees, including the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee. The committee identified several areas for further discussion, including labor laws, insurance issues, educational value, and associated practicums.

TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY STANDARDS AGENCY

The site director provided an update on NYU's challenge to achieve registration with the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency, an independent body that regulates higher education in Australia. When the Liberal Coalition took control of the Commonwealth government in Australia last fall, it promised to reduce the burden of certain TEQSA regulations. Changes are currently underway, and it is hoped that this may ultimately simplify NYU's path to registration as a university in Australia.

PATHWAYS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THEMES

As schools and departments establish and develop their connections to the site via partnerships and affiliations, the committee can begin the next phase of articulating the site's academic identity: identifying pathways, opportunities, and themes. A "pathway" is a well-developed curricular structure that is the result of a school's or department's investment in the site, and that offers sufficient coursework to enable students to advance in their majors. Pathways can cross schools and departments and also be interdisciplinary. "Opportunities" are small groupings of courses that enable students to learn more about a particular field. Finally, "themes" are the overarching interdisciplinary topics or areas

that are explored through the site's curriculum, and which the committee would incorporate into the site's academic narrative. The committee articulated the following in the context of developing the site's academic identity:

- Pathways are a crucial component of a site's identity and will allow students to plan their study away experience based on how well the site's curriculum meets their academic needs.
- Pathways are envisioned to provide sites with more predictable enrollments, allowing for more advanced and accurate horizon planning. It was agreed that more can be accomplished if predictable student enrollments are guaranteed in advance of course offerings.
- Several academic areas were suggested as possible areas for growth at Sydney:
 - Australian Studies
 - Medical Anthropology
 - Eco/Enviro-Health
 - English
 - History
 - Media (including Indigenous Media)
 - Indigenous experience in the context of colonial Australia
 - Immigration

As the committee discussed the site's identity and its curriculum, several other ideas and questions emerged.

- The committee noted the importance of understanding which departments and schools are sending students to Sydney.
- There is strong interest in Sydney at both Tisch and GIPH, though few students from these programs currently study at the site.
- GIPH has several joint majors (Sociology, Anthropology, English, Applied Psych, MCC, etc.), and these departments could help guide which electives to add to the academic program and which departments to invite to the table to discuss curricular development.
- The group anticipates increased interest at Stern in the future, and also interest at NYU Shanghai once its study away program commences.
- As the Sydney site grows and offers more major courses (e.g., Physics in Spring 2015), it will be important to nurture the site's global identity by also adding more electives that celebrate Australia's indigenous and colonial heritage, and its emerging multicultural identity.
- It was suggested that the site's academic synergies could be leveraged by creating a cross-school minor that could be completed in one semester while studying

away in Sydney. This could help to delineate the site's academic identity and create a unique academic experience for students.

SITE ACTIVITIES/CONNECTIONS WITH THE COMMUNITY

The Sydney site offers attractive resources for symposia, conferences and other events. As departments establish themselves and come to understand their place at the site, they may choose to take advantage of these facilities. Offering a robust program of extra-curricular programming that includes involvement of the local community will attract students and generate interest in the site.

WEBSITE NARRATIVE

The current NYU Sydney homepage and academic website narratives were shared with the committee for review and discussion in the context of the themes and synergies under consideration. The committee agreed to make revisions to the narrative on a Google Doc that Global Programs will share with the group prior to its next meeting.

NEXT STEPS

- Janet/Academics team will share information on study away internships.
- Lauren will create a GoogleDoc of the Sydney website description and invite the Committee to edit.