

NYU Tel Aviv Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 29, 2018

10:30AM - 11:45AM New York / (4:30 PM - 5:45 PM Tel Aviv / 6:30 PM - 7:45 PM AD)
383 Lafayette St, Room C-05

Attendees (*Denotes joined remotely)

- David Abramson (College of Global Public Health)
- Maria Christodoulou (Academics, Global Programs)
- Benjamin Hary (NYU Tel Aviv Site Director and FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Linda Mills (Vice Chancellor, Global Programs and University Life)
- Andrew Monson (FAS – Classics)
- Nancy Morrison (Vice President, Global Programs)
- Sunder Narayanan (Stern)
- Marianne Petit (Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Network Academic Planning)
- John Robertson* (NYU Shanghai)
- Josh Taylor (Associate Vice Chancellor, University Life and Global Programs)
- Peter Voltz* (NYU Tandon)
- Keith Woerpel (FAS – Chemistry)
- Ronald Zweig (Chair, FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)

Introductions

The meeting opened with brief introductions of all meeting participants.

Update on Academic Boycott of NYU Tel Aviv

It was reported that several student clubs (30 groups) had signed a letter to President Hamilton pledging to not participate in or apply to study abroad programs hosted at NYU Tel Aviv.. The group discussed putting together a response and agreed that Dr. Zweig will draft a letter and circulate to the committee members for their review in the coming days.

Site Director Report

Benny Hary, Site Director, reviewed the Site Director Report. He noted the success of the biology pathway at the site and discussed ways to make the chemistry program more attractive to students. In addition, Dr. Hary discussed the business course offerings and how to leverage the site's location, resources, and identity to attract more Stern and NYU Shanghai business majors. The site director also mentioned his appreciation for Marianne Petit's assistance in helping to build a program to attract more students in Interactive Media Arts.

Dr. Benny Hary introduced Dr. Andrew Monson to the group and asked him to speak about the proposal he is working on with Rothschild Foundation that would provide a unique opportunity for students to participate in an archeological dig project.

The site director's report continued with highlights on special student programming. Dr. Hary noted the project students are involved in as part of the new CORE course, *Expressive Culture: Art and Culture in Contemporary Israel*. The students are engaged with creating, identifying, and selecting works of art to decorate the new academic space. The site director also mentioned the continued focus on Inclusion, Diversity, Belonging, and Equity (IDBE) work. This is the first semester the site has a Global Equity Fellow, and a student community conduct code to help guide students in respectfully engage in political discussions has already been created.

Dr. Hary also noted the site's continued efforts in the areas of affordability and sustainability. Some of these highlights include:

- encouraging students to apply to the [NYU Innovation Scholarship](#) program to receive scholarship funds;
- providing discounted meal plan options at the B'nei Dan Youth Hostel dining room;
- assisting students in purchasing used bikes to lower transportation costs;
- offering a new recycling program at the academic center and dorms to ensure proper waste management; and
- providing students with "green" shopping bags to avoid the use of plastic bags.

Program Site Evaluations

Dr. Hary briefly discussed the results from the Spring 2018 program evaluations and noted that overall the results were positive. He noted that the site is focusing their attention in the continued development of the academic program in these three areas:

- ensuring that students feel they are having an academically challenging experience;
- reflecting on the importance of the student orientation program in preparing students for their semester at the site; and
- nurturing and developing the unique political diversity of the community, inside and outside of the classroom.

Close of Meeting

Dr. Hary ended the meeting with a viewing of a short video clip, [NYU Tel Aviv Day in the Life](#). The clip showcases the experience of an NYU Abu Dhabi sophomore who is studying at NYU Tel Aviv and participating in an internship.

Action Items

Dr. Zweig will draft the response letter and circulate to the committee members for their review.