

NYU Tel Aviv Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 9th, 2013, 8:30-10:00am EST (3:30-5:00pm IST)

IN ATTENDANCE

Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
Zlatko Bacic (Chemistry)
Michah Gottlieb (Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
Erin Kuhn (Global Programs)
Ruti Livne (NYU Tel Aviv)
Linda Mills (Global Programs)
Mark Siegal (Biology)
Ron Zweig (NYU Tel Aviv)

INTRODUCTIONS

On behalf of their departments/schools, members of the Committee introduced themselves, their areas of academic interest, and their relationship to NYU Tel Aviv.

FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE

The meeting opened with background on the formation of the Site-Specific Advisory Committees (SSACs), which resulted from conversations with deans, departments, and faculty, as well as with the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network and the GNU Initiatives Committee of the Faculty Senators Council. The SSACs are designed to promote discussions between faculty from schools/departments that have academic partnerships in Tel Aviv and to foster cross-school communication in curricular and related global site planning. Meetings will be informal in nature to encourage discussion. The Office of Global Programs will supply whatever data is needed to help inform these conversations.

More information on the formation of the SSACs can be found here:

<http://www.nyu.edu/global/global-academic-partnerships-and-affiliations/faculty-discussions-on-global-sites.html>).

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

Committee members discussed the language requirement at NYU Tel Aviv and explored the benefits and drawbacks of the current policy, which requires every student to take one course in either Arabic or Hebrew. It was noted that the requirement might deter potential students,

particularly in science or other vertically-structured, requirement-heavy majors, from studying at the site (as the language requirement would be their only credit-bearing non-science course).

POTENTIAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Committee members discussed the potential growth of NYU Tel Aviv, particularly to accommodate lab space. In addition to developing NYU-owned labs (probably not the preferred option), there is also the possibility of leasing space from local institutions, including Tel Aviv University and Shenkar College.

TIES WITH LOCAL INSTITUTIONS/SCHOLARS

Several committee members have close ties with leading scholars in Israel and would like to use these contacts to recruit faculty to teach and to enhance research links. One possibility is developing joint summer programs with local institutions focused on undergraduate research opportunities (e.g., a Chemistry program with Weizmann University).

The committee also discussed how to attract the best faculty at NYU Tel Aviv. It was agreed that an affiliation with the Square might be attractive to the best local scholars. Input from New York faculty is needed in order to recruit the best local faculty and the benefits that local faculty might appreciate.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Both students and NYU Tel Aviv faculty and staff are interested in opportunities for community engagement. Possible outreach activities could include lecture series featuring Global Research Initiative (GRI) fellows and other prominent leaders/scholars, collaboration with local institutions (e.g., joint classes or co-curricular activities), and experiential learning (e.g., internships, undergraduate research opportunities, and community service).

RECRUITMENT TOOLS

Improving student recruitment is an issue that the Committee would like to discuss further. Some departments are already employing effective strategies, such as Biology, which provides information about studying at NYU Tel Aviv on its website:

<http://biology.as.nyu.edu/object/study.away.opportunities>.

FACULTY CIRCULATION

At present, faculty circulation is temporarily paused while cost, visa, tax, and labor issues are explored. The Faculty Advisory Committee on NYU's Global Network is discussing all aspects of this issue.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee will meet again in November to discuss the following issues:

- 1) Recruitment of students to the site/development of academic pathways
- 2) Developing relationships with additional NYU schools/departments
- 3) Identifying local faculty for research/internship/teaching opportunities
- 4) Language requirement

In departmental meetings, faculty could discuss opportunities for creating academic pathways/advising students, as appropriate.

In the meantime, Global Programs will gather the necessary data to discuss the above mentioned topics and will also explore the possibility of a January meeting in Tel Aviv.