

NYU Tel Aviv Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 12:00-3:00 pm Tel Aviv Time

NYU Tel Aviv Academic Center

Attendance

- Ronald Zweig (Chair, FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Benjamin Hary (NYU Tel Aviv and FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Mark Siegal (FAS – Biology)
- Pance Naumov (NYUAD – Chemistry)
- Zlatko Bacic (FAS – Chemistry)
- Assaf Friedler (NYU Tel Aviv)
- Steve Small (FAS – Biology; in Tel Aviv for the Symposium)
- Inbal Unger-Cavari (NYU Tel Aviv)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost's Office; by phone)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Miriam Halsey (Global Programs; by phone)

Site Director Update

The Site Director, Benjamin Hary, provided the following updates:

Enrollment

17 students are enrolled for this semester at this site.

Visas

NYUTA has been working with local counsel and the Population, Immigration and Border Control (PIBA) to allow students to enter on a B2 visa, which will be valid for up to one year. NYU Tel Aviv staff will work with the government to ensure that students receive multiple entry permits once they are in the country.

Community Engagement

Member of NYUTA continues to meet with local academics to strengthen NYU Tel Aviv's connections and presence in the city and the country.

The NYU Israel alumni club is new and active. With over 1,100 alumni in Israel, the leadership group and Benny are excited to be collaborating. The club is planning a May 2015 alumni panel to discuss how alumni came to Israel after graduation and the development of their career.

NYU hosted two public events last semester and one so far this semester. The latter was an Actor's Studio with Eytan Fox (noted Israeli film director) and Dana Ivgi (currently the most successful Israeli actress). Students loved it, and attendance was high (70 people), even in inclement weather. The second event is the keynote speech by Dr. Yaron Daniely, which opens the Biology Symposium, happening in alignment with this SSAC meeting.

Emergency Response

Evacuation planning for all sites has been developed and the NYU Tel Aviv Staff have action plans in place. This planning includes coursework continuity and the implications of any such decisions on the students and the program.

Facilities

Students enjoy the new and modern B'nei Dan residence hall, and the site is preparing for the building of the third floor this coming summer. Construction is expected to begin on June 1, 2015, and last about 60 days. The new capacity will be 28 students. There is discussion of what kind of space will be provided for the live-in RA to encourage interaction with students, but also to provide some independent space.

There is some exploration of other options for classroom and office space outside of B'nei Dan.

Academics

NYU Tel Aviv is continuing to work well with the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies, among numerous other departments. There is ongoing development of a CORE Expressive Cultures course to debut in Fall 2016.

NYU Tel Aviv staff is exploring other opportunities for further developing pathways:

- Business & Entrepreneurship – of possible interest to NYU Shanghai's Business and Finance program and NYU Stern students (launching in the Fall 2015 semester)
- Arab Crossroads – of possible interest to NYU Abu Dhabi students in this major

With interest in these pathways and existing ones, NYUTA is also looking at the viability of cohorts and class sizes. This brought about a discussion regarding the new Chemistry Program, hopefully launching this coming fall at NYU Tel Aviv. The committee discussed the necessity of having specific courses and the viability of class sizes. Continued recruitment will take place for the Chemistry Program.

Gallatin has an interest in adding a course to NYU Tel Aviv focused on queer theory, and there is also discussion of the possibility of an environmental studies course. The committee discussed student financials as another consideration impacting enrollment

- Two Scholarships have been introduced:
 - Levine Scholarship through CAS -- \$1,500 per semester
 - Chemistry Department Scholarship for Majors -- \$5,000 per semester
- There was a discussion about current efforts to raise money for study away scholarships, including what is currently being offered (through the Global Pathways Scholarships and the Global Programs Scholarships)
- Cost of living varies by site, and there was a discussion of how this impacts student decision-making

Language Instruction

There have been ongoing conversations regarding language requirements and the needs of students. Benefits of the new *Languages of Israel* course were shared and the benefits and challenges to small language classes. There was a discussion of the potential language needs for the incoming Fall 2015

cohort, which would be a handful of students in Arabic or Hebrew at the intermediate level or above. The remainder would likely take the *Languages of Israel* course.

Site identity

The committee reviewed the current description of the site, and moved into brainstorming keywords to describe the program and NYU Tel Aviv at large. Through much discussion, there was general agreement about innovation and challenge being the overall themes of the site.

A competition was proposed for the current students to provide a 10-line description of NYU Tel Aviv. With the suggestion of extending it to the previous year's students, Benny and Ron will move forward to implement the opportunity.

Data Packet and Announcements

The Committee briefly discussed the data packet and noted several trends, including:

- There has been an increase in sophomores
- Despite the suspension of the program for the Fall 2014 semester, there has been a strong return of students and student interest
- The Fall 2015 numbers are close to Spring 2015, which is notable especially because Fall enrollment tends to be lower than spring enrollment at all sites

Janet and her team are available to discuss the data in further detail with any department that has the interest.

Course Lists

Course lists will be sent after Fall 2015 chemistry and language courses are finalized.

Changes for 2016-2017 courses are requested by May 31, 2015. Global Programs wants to post the 2016-2017 projected courses on July 1, 2015 to facilitate recruitment and course planning.

Arts/European Committees

A new Cross-School Arts Committee and Europe Committee have been formed and will meet as needed to discuss programmatic links among the sites. Members mentioned that NYU Tel Aviv should be considered for possible inclusion for European discussions at NYU as Israel is in fact an associated member of the European Union.

Summer Programs

Language programs for NYU graduate students are under consideration for expansion in the future.