

**NYU Tel Aviv Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**November 13, 2014**

**Attendance**

- Ronald Zweig (Chair, FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Zlatko Bacic (FAS – Chemistry)
- Benjamin Hary (NYU Tel Aviv)
- Mark Siegal (FAS-Biology)
- Karen Krahulik (FAS – Global Liaison)
- Sunder Narayanan (FAS – Global Liaison)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Miriam Halsey (Global Programs)
- Erin Kuhn (Global Programs)

**I. Committee Business**

**Advising Ideas:** Members reviewed a summary of advising ideas that emerged across all Site-Specific Advisory Committees and agreed to discuss the ideas in greater detail at the next meeting.

**Program Assessment:** The Provost's Office is revising the site evaluation, which was suspended last spring in anticipation of a new version being developed. The updated version will be shorter in length, and will include questions on the academic program at the site (the previous version focused heavily on student life). The new evaluation will also seek to gauge the level of immersion and engagement students have while studying away. A committee comprised of Site Directors and faculty from Site-Specific Advisory Committees will provide guidance to the Provost's Office on this initiative.

**Next Committee Meeting:** Members discussed holding the next committee meeting in Tel Aviv, to coincide with the Biology Symposium. The committee meeting would take place on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Symposium would take place on March 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Rotating Local Faculty Representation**

Members decided that the local faculty representative on the committee should rotate every two years, to give more faculty members exposure to the committee.

**II. Report from the Site Director**

The committee received the following updates:

- NYUTA has professionalized its offices, including developing a new faculty lounge and ensuring that all signage is in English, Hebrew, and Arabic.

- There have been some issues maintaining the cleanliness of the shared kitchen. Global Programs will send NYUTA the contract that students sign on the square to maintain shared spaces.
- The site now has a resource center, which will house a selection of recorded lectures by NYUTA professors.
- NYUTA hosted an alumni event, which included a lecture by Professor Daniel Stein of NYU's Physics Department.
- Construction will begin this summer on the third floor of Bnei Dan.

### **III. Report on Spring Registration**

At the time of the meeting, 17 students had been admitted to NYUTA for Spring 2015; 14 of which have confirmed. Five of the students are in the science track. *[Subsequent to the meeting, 16 students confirmed their enrollment at the site for Spring 2015]*

Global Programs has fielded calls from parents who are nervous about sending their students to Tel Aviv. It was suggested that the NYU Site Director could speak with these individuals. The Global Ambassadors (students who previously studied at NYUTA) could also be helpful in this regard.

### **IV. Academic Updates**

#### **Language Instruction**

Students in Berlin and London are taking online Arabic language courses with NYUTA professors; additional assistance is being provided by local tutors. These students will study in Tel Aviv in the Spring, where they will continue their Arabic language coursework.

This online-teaching model is working quite well and could be replicated in future semesters. However, an important factor will be ensuring that students are well-prepared for the next level of language instruction. Having students take the same final across the GNU was offered as a solution to any interoperability issues.

NYUTA is interested in developing a summer Arabic language institute for NYU Abu Dhabi students and possibly others, which would include classroom instruction and community service.

Site staff are looking for ways to ensure that all students learn basic Hebrew language skills during their time in Tel Aviv. One possibility may be incorporating 'Survival Hebrew' into the Global Orientations course. NYUTA is also interested in developing a program in intensive Hebrew language studies for graduate students; a pilot was successfully tested this summer with a doctoral student.

Members were also informed that NYUTA could mount courses in Amharic and Russian, if there is interest.

Paths to Peace is looking to incorporate more disadvantaged students into its program in New York. One challenge is that many of these students do not possess the required English-language skills. Members

agreed that classroom space at the site could be used for English-language courses to prepare these students for their time in New York.

### **Science Pathways**

The Chemistry pathway at NYU Tel Aviv will launch this fall with 'Physical Chemistry: Quantum Mechanics and Spectroscopy'. Physics will also provide a service course for students.

### **Business/Entrepreneurship Courses**

NYUTA, working in partnership with Stern, has identified a possible instructor for a course in entrepreneurship.

Stern is also interested in developing a second course at NYUTA, possibly 'Futures and Options'. These offerings would be attractive to both Stern and NYU Shanghai students.

Members noted that for students looking at careers in biotechnology, NYUTA's course on 'Molecular and Cell Biology' might be of interest.

### **Other Academic Updates**

NYUTA is working with the Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies to develop a course on 'Expressive Cultures'.

Two networked courses were suggested as possibilities for NYUTA's curriculum:

- 'Where the City Meets the Sea', which is currently taught in Abu Dhabi, Sydney, London, Shanghai, and New York
- 'Queer Cultures and Democracy', which is currently taught in Buenos Aires

It was also suggested that students who study away at NYUTA may be interested in courses affiliated with the minor in Multifaith and Spiritual Leadership, which is sponsored by Wagner and Social Work.