

NYU Tel Aviv Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting

November 20, 2013

9:00-10:30am EST/4:00-5:30pm IST

IN ATTENDANCE

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

NYU TEL AVIV UPDATE

Members were given the following updates related to NYU Tel Aviv:

Facilities: Construction will be completed on the residence hall in the next two weeks. Better teaching space is also needed, some of which may be provided by the Tel Aviv Conservatorium of Music. Tel Aviv University (TAU) or Shenkar College can assist with lab space.

Courses at TAU: NYU Tel Aviv is working with the English Language Liberal Arts BA program at TAU to allow students to take courses on their campus. At present, three courses will be sent to NYUNY departments for approval.

Language: NYU Tel Aviv continues to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of a language requirement, particularly for students in the sciences.

The site is also discussing ways to assist NYU Abu Dhabi with Hebrew instruction. NYU Tel Aviv volunteered to work with potential instructors and liaise with NYU Abu Dhabi's academic program about any outreach in this area.

NYU Abu Dhabi Students: Members inquired about the flow of NYU Abu Dhabi students to NYU Tel Aviv. It was noted that NYU Abu Dhabi conducts horizon planning and therefore manages the number of students studying at each site; further details about student flows from Abu Dhabi to Tel Aviv will be explored.

NYU Shanghai Students: Members indicated that there is a strong interest among Chinese students to study in Israel and suggested nesting a course at NYU Shanghai to encourage students to study away at NYU Tel Aviv.

Co-Curricular Activities: NYU Tel Aviv recently hosted a debate for its students featuring settlers from the West Bank and representatives from the Peace Now movement. Students from the World Union of Jewish Students were also in attendance.

Public Programming: NYU Tel Aviv hosted a public lecture that featured senior representation from the Egyptian Embassy. More than 50 people were in attendance, including students, NYU alumni and Paths to Peace alumni. Two public lecture events are planned for the Spring semester. An additional social gathering was held on November 27 for NYU Tel Aviv students and Paths to Peace alumni.

Promoting Science/Technology/Innovation: Members suggested featuring more speakers related to science, technology and entrepreneurship. NYU Tel Aviv is looking to partner with TAU on courses related to entrepreneurship and innovation and will also explore tours for students to the science/technology/innovation departments of local institutions.

Global Programs will explore opportunities for CAS scholars to travel to Tel Aviv to learn about the science/technology/innovation industry. Global Programs will also work with NYU Tel Aviv to organize a panel on these topics to inform NYUNY faculty of opportunities for their students.

Excursions: NYU Tel Aviv has organized a 40-mile bike trip for students around the Sea of Galilee, planned for November 30th. Members suggested working with the Society of the Protection of Nature in Israel for future activities, as well as bringing students to Ein Gedi, which the site offered to students earlier in the semester. NYU Tel Aviv is also working on restructuring some of the academic tours planned for students.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND AREAS OF FOCUS

Members received a brief overview of possible areas of focus for the Site-Specific Advisory Committees (SSACs), including:

- Exploring opportunities for cross-school partnership and research
- Identifying potential relationships with local institutions/organizations
- Reviewing enrollment planning
- Developing strategies for student engagement/advising
- Communicating committee initiatives and decisions to departments/schools
- Expanding opportunities for students and faculty at the Global Sites

The Committee also considered whether to appoint a faculty chair (a question raised by the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network).

CURRICULUM DISCUSSIONS

Members were reminded that over the next few months, global curriculum discussions will be conducted within schools, as each department/school has ownership over its global coursework. These conversations will give committee members the opportunity to review the history of course discussions within their schools as well as provide information needed to better understand current departmental/school course offerings at the Global Sites.

While every course/instructor at the Global Sites has been approved by an NYUNY department/school, meticulous records of these approvals have not been kept. Moving forward, the Office of Global Programs will keep a detailed history of curriculum discussions (i.e., who in each department/school reviewed the courses/instructors and when), so there is a history of the process of initial approvals and reviews.

After the global curriculum discussions take place within each school, the SSACs may wish to discuss cross-school/departmental synergies.

ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The committee reviewed the online assessment tools currently used by the Office of Global Programs, e.g., course evaluations, program/site evaluations, and evaluations of the pre-departure orientation process. Committee members were asked for their feedback on these materials in order to improve evaluation efforts and ensure that useful information is collected for faculty.

Quantitative data for all global course evaluations will now be online and accessible through the NYU Tel Aviv Site-Specific Advisory Committee website:

<https://sites.google.com/a/nyu.edu/nyu-tel-aviv-advisory-committee/>

GLOBAL CURRICULUM AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Committee was given a draft proposal for a new Global Curriculum and Faculty Development Fund (GCFDF). This will provide grants of up to \$5,000 to global faculty who propose to work with faculty and departments on the Square to improve existing courses or to undertake other projects that will promote faculty development and collaboration in connection with teaching. The new grant will launch in spring 2014. In the meantime, the Square's longstanding Curriculum Development Challenge Fund (CDCF) has generously earmarked three grants for global faculty for this transition year. [Subsequent to the meeting,

at the request of the SSACs, the deadline for global faculty who are interested in applying for a CDCF grant was extended to January 10, 2014.]

Committee members were asked to review the GCFDF guidelines and to provide feedback.

NEW POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WEBSITE

The Office of Global Programs and the Office of the Provost are developing a website to help students (and faculty) understand the academic policies that are in place at the Global Sites. In some instances (e.g., attendance), the Centers have policies that do not exist on the Square. Other policies (e.g., pass/fail) may simply vary by school, an issue that the Undergraduate Deans are now exploring. Committee members were asked to review the draft website and to provide feedback.

STAFFING STRUCTURE AT NYU TEL AVIV

Members were provided with the following overview of senior staff at NYU Tel Aviv:

- **Inbal Unger-Cavari - Assistant Director:** Inbal assists the Director in providing financial and operational oversight for NYU Tel Aviv, including budget and accounting, human resources, and negotiation of supplier contracts. Inbal also oversees the administering of student life services and supports day to day operations by serving as the primary contact in Tel Aviv for addressing concerns and responding to requests for the Office of Global Programs.
- **Tahlia Berger - Program Coordinator:** Tahlia coordinates and runs the administrative office and logistics for NYU Tel Aviv, supports faculty's academic needs, implements student life programs, promotes social activities, and ensures the well-being of students.

ACADEMIC RELATIONSHIPS

Members were given an overview of NYU Tel Aviv's academic relationships, including that each local faculty member has academic connections to Israeli institutions and organizations. NYU Tel Aviv's strong relationship with TAU was also highlighted.

NEXT STEPS

Committee members will submit feedback to the committee in the following areas:

- Key questions that should be included in global site/course/pre-departure evaluations
- New academic policies and procedures website
- New Global Curriculum and Faculty Development Fund

The Office of Global Programs will:

- Explore a CAS Scholars trip to Tel Aviv
- Work with NYU Tel Aviv to develop a panel for NYUNY faculty to elaborate on the science/technology/innovation potential at NYU Tel Aviv