

## **NYU Tel Aviv Advisory Committee Meeting**

**September 30, 2014**

### **Attendance**

- Ronald Zweig (Chair, FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Zlatko Bacic (FAS – Chemistry)
- Benjamin Hary (NYU Tel Aviv)
- Ruti Livne (NYU Tel Aviv)
- Michah Gottlieb (FAS – Hebrew and Judaic Studies)
- Mark Siegal (FAS-Biology)
- Philip Kennedy (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Linda Mills (Global Programs)
- Matthew Santirocco (Office of the Provost)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)

### **1. Update on Course Offerings**

Members discussed new courses that will soon be offered at NYU Tel Aviv:

- Chemistry: NYU Tel Aviv will begin offering Chemistry courses in Fall 2015.
- Physics: Tel Aviv University (TAU) will most probably grant NYU Tel Aviv access to its physics labs. NYU Tel Aviv has been in touch with the TAU VP on this issue. Physics will begin offering a service course for Chemistry majors beginning Fall 2015.
- Business Studies: Stern is interested in launching a Business Studies course on ‘Innovation and Entrepreneurship’ beginning Fall 2015. The course will include guest lecturers from Israel’s high-tech industry.

### **2. Biology Symposium**

The Biology Department has received funding from the Provost’s Global Research Initiatives to hold a biology symposium at NYU Tel Aviv. The symposium will take place during the NYUNY spring break (date TBD). Members discussed holding the spring advisory committee meeting at NYU Tel Aviv to coincide with the symposium.

### **3. Travel Opportunities**

Working closely with the Faculty Advisory Committee on the Global Network and Global School Liaisons, the Office of Global Programs has developed a process for NYUNY faculty to propose short-term visits to the global sites. The central purpose of the visit will be to strengthen a school or department’s academic relationship with the site. Faculty who wish to apply for travel funds should work with their department chair and Global School Liaison to obtain sign-off, and with the site to accommodate the timing of their proposed visit given all that is going on at a site at any given time. Pre-existing curricular conversations are not necessary when applying for funding, but the objective of the trip should be focused on

furthering a school or department's academic connections with the site. Funds can also be used to look at ways to partner with local institutions or programs. Further information can be found here: <https://www.nyu.edu/faculty/faculty-in-the-global-network/ny-faculty/teaching-at-the-global-sites.html>

If faculty are looking to conduct research or conference activities at the global sites, funds are available through the University's Global Research Initiatives: <https://www.nyu.edu/research/provosts-global-research-initiatives.html>

Finally, the newly-developed Global Faculty Fund (GFF) provides opportunities for site faculty to enhance the courses they teach, establish multi-site projects, pursue professional development opportunities, and travel to New York to strengthen relationships with their schools and departments. In order to take advantage of the GFF, local faculty will develop proposals that will be reviewed by a committee consisting of: one Site Director, one faculty member from a (different) global site, and two faculty members from New York who are currently serving on Site-Specific Advisory Committees representing another two global sites. Members were enthusiastic about the opportunity to bring local faculty to New York to meet with colleagues in their departments. Further information on the GFF can be found here: <https://www.nyu.edu/content/dam/nyu/provost/documents/faculty-global-network/GFFw.letterhead9.23.14.pdf>

#### **4. NYU Abu Dhabi Opportunities**

Members discussed ways to strengthen the relationship between NYU Tel Aviv and NYU Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), including creating a virtual classroom for students to practice Arabic language skills (similar to the 'Speaking Freely' program in New York).

It was suggested that faculty from NYU Tel Aviv could work with members of the Abu Dhabi community to develop a Hebrew language program at NYUAD to allow students from NYU Tel Aviv and NYUAD to practice Hebrew together through a similar virtual classroom experience.

Members also discussed developing an NYUAD sponsored January term course at NYU Tel Aviv on 'Modern Israel'.

#### **5. Language Courses**

This summer NYU Tel Aviv hosted a doctoral student who was interested in strengthening his Hebrew language skills. NYU Tel Aviv offered him an intensive Hebrew course over the summer. Next summer, NYU Tel Aviv would like to explore an intensive Arabic language program. NYU Tel Aviv Site Director will work with the Arabic language programs at NYU New York and NYU Abu Dhabi to ensure coordination across locations.

Members also suggested developing a 'survival' Hebrew course for students at NYU Tel Aviv who choose to fulfill their language requirement by taking Arabic. The committee will receive a presentation on this idea at the November committee meeting.

## **6. Building Update**

The first two floors of the dormitories are complete. Construction on the third floor will be delayed until summer 2015 to avoid disrupting spring term students. Summer session will be housed in the main hostel building. At present, NYU Tel Aviv has access to additional housing at Bnei Dan in an identical building if student enrollment is more than the current location can accommodate. It was suggested that the site look into installing NYU wifi at the second building if it will be used to house students.

## **7. Advising**

The committee discussed best practices in terms of advising students on opportunities to study away at NYU Tel Aviv. It was noted that faculty champions are one of the most important factors in generating student interest. Departments should also publicize relevant course offerings on their websites. The Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies will explore ways to encourage not only more of its majors/minors, but also students who simply take their courses, to enroll at NYU Tel Aviv. Other members will also explore ways to reach out to the Bronfman community.

Members were informed that the University is piloting a new online planning tool, called the Global Arch Initiative Academic Planner, to assist students (and their advisors) in creating four-year academic plans, including study away opportunities.

## **8. Spring 2015 Enrollment Update**

The committee agreed that NYU Tel Aviv would reopen for classes this spring. Global Programs will post an announcement on its website to this effect.

At present, 16 students have applied to NYU Tel Aviv for Spring 2015. Additional interest may come from students who applied to NYU London, but identified NYU Tel Aviv as their second choice. Overall, applications to study away this spring are up by 7% from last year.

## **9. Emergency Response Protocols**

The committee discussed emergency response protocols. When making the difficult decision to suspend courses at NYU Tel Aviv, the Office of Global Programs consulted various members of the University community, including past and present site directors, the Office of Risk Management, HTH (the University's evacuation partner), and members of the committee. The Office of Global Programs underscored the importance of faculty consultation during these decisions, particularly those with expertise in Israel and related security concerns, and expressed gratitude for the advice and guidance that were given during the consultation period.

## **10. Update from Site Director**

The committee received an update on activities at the site over the past few months. These include professionalizing the site's office space; meeting with faculty; strengthening relationships with Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University; conducting an intensive summer Hebrew course; hosting auditors;

establishing an NYU Tel Aviv Resource Center; overseeing online instruction for students at NYU London and NYU Berlin; and conducting outreach to NYU's alumni base in Israel.

**11. Next Steps**

- The committee will receive a presentation on opportunities for offering Hebrew language study to all students