

**NYU Washington, D.C., Site-Specific Advisory Committee Meeting**  
Third Meeting: March 26, 2014 (9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. EST)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)
- Kerry Barrett (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Peter Diamond (Liberal Studies)
- Pat Egan (CAS – Politics)
- Hilton Hallock (Global Programs)
- Larry Jackson (Office of the Provost)
- David Ludden (CAS – History)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Mary Quigley (CAS – Journalism)
- Matthew Santirocco (Office of the Provost)
- Chris Schlottmann (CAS – Environmental Studies)
- Charles Seife (CAS – Journalism)
- Laura Sponsler (NYU Washington, D.C.)
- Michael Ulrich (NYU Washington, D.C.)

**CURRICULUM DISCUSSIONS**

The committee was updated on the global curriculum discussions that have been taking place in schools and departments on the Square. At the time of the meeting, approximately 34% of schools and departments had already reviewed and approved their global curriculum; approximately 32% were taking ongoing steps to enhance their global curriculum; and approximately 34% were still reviewing their global offerings. These curriculum discussions are an important initial step in ensuring that schools and departments have a sense of ownership over their global course offerings. These conversations also ensure that global course offerings are coordinated with curriculum on the Square and are thus in line with department goals and objectives.

*Update: As of the distribution of these notes on April 23, 2014, 95% of schools/departments have reviewed the history of their curricular offerings (except Paris course offerings, which are currently being assembled in anticipation of the inaugural Paris Site-Specific Advisory meeting). Global Programs has been and continues to be in discussion with several schools/departments and sites about their course offerings in the global sites. If you have questions or feedback about these reviews, please let us know, as we have carefully tracked the responses. We will now make these reviews a regular (every semester) part of a process of engaging the departments on the Square in the global curriculum they sponsor, both through the partner departments and schools on the site-specific committees and for those departments with affiliations in the global sites.*

## **CURRICULAR AND CROSS-CURRICULAR BRAINSTORMING**

With school/department discussions wrapping up, the committee was able to take this opportunity to review the site's entire global curriculum using the course list and enrollment handout distributed at the meeting (and now posted on the committee [website](#)). The committee reviewed course offerings at the site, including those that are cross-listed between departments, their enrollment numbers, and major/minor data across four academic terms. The following topics and ideas emerged from this collective review:

- It was suggested that the committee discuss upcoming events at NYU Washington, D.C. It was noted that events are key to the site's identity, and so it might be useful for the committee to explore a number of important questions related to them (e.g., should NYU partner with outside organizations? Should only the programs that sponsor courses in D.C. generate events there?). It was decided that this would be a topic for the next SSAC meeting, when information on past events could be shared.
- Students from NYU Abu Dhabi have expressed greater interest in New York as a U.S. study-away site, but they might find D.C. appealing if they can take the Business and Economics courses that they may be closed out of on the Square.
- Stern's Business and Political Economy (BPE) program now gives its students the option of going to D.C. rather than Shanghai after completing a semester in London. This may, over time, become an attractive option, not only because Shanghai's language requirement is difficult for many BPE students, but also because new visa requirements in China will make it difficult for students to have internships there. On the other hand, Stern students, even those in BPE, tend to focus on New York, London, and Shanghai as financial centers, and a different case will have to be made for D.C.
- History is planning to offer a course on Archival Research, a subject on which the department recently held a popular event at the site. The Jewish Diaspora was one possible area of focus that was discussed for this course.
- English is considering course proposals that will take advantage of local resources, such as the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Museum of African Studies, and the Holocaust Museum.
- Politics is planning to offer in spring 2015 a Quantitative Methods course for students in the department who are preparing for their senior thesis, and are often closed out of that same course on the Square. Videoconferencing could be used to link students in such a course to those seniors on the Square who have taken it already and are currently at work on their theses, thus providing cross-site mentoring to students.
- The committee discussed the possibility of offering a course in Leadership Skills, and perhaps linking it to the internship opportunities that are the hallmark of the D.C. experience for NYU students.

## **PATHWAYS, OPPORTUNITIES, AND THEMES**

As schools and departments establish and develop their connections to the site via partnerships and affiliations, the committee can begin the next phase of articulating the site's academic identity: identifying pathways, opportunities, and themes. A "pathway" is a well-developed curricular structure that is the result of a school or department's investment in the site, and that offers sufficient coursework to enable students to advance in their majors. Pathways can cross schools and departments and also be interdisciplinary. "Opportunities" are small groupings of courses that enable students to learn more about a particular field. Finally, "themes" are the overarching interdisciplinary topics or areas that are explored through the site's curriculum, and which the committee would incorporate into the site's academic narrative. The committee articulated the following in the context of developing the site's academic identity:

- Pathways are a crucial component of a site's identity and will allow students to plan their study away experience based on how well the site's curriculum meets their academic needs.
- Pathways are envisioned to provide predictable enrollments, allowing for more advanced and accurate horizon planning. It was agreed that more can be accomplished if predictable student enrollments are guaranteed in advance of course offerings.
- The following pathways were discussed:
  - Diplomacy, Global Affairs, and Public Service: This could be a cross-school program offered exclusively in D.C. that would include internship opportunities to students with the city's many NGOs and embassies.
  - American Political Practice and Leadership: Politics is offering this new track for students who wish to supplement the quantitative research that they do in the department by developing real-world experience in politics and public policy.
- The following proposed programs/opportunities emerged from discussion:
  - World War I: History is creating a suite of courses and activities to mark the centenary of the First World War. David suggested that D.C. would be an optimal location for some of these initiatives, which may include travel and videoconferencing across NYU's Global Sites.
  - Shakespeare at the Folger Library.
  - The committee could explore leadership opportunities at the site with Melody Barnes, Vice Provost for Global Student Leadership Initiatives. The committee agreed to invite her to its next meeting.
- The following proposed themes emerged from discussion:
  - Experiential Learning.
  - Archival Research.
  - Public Policy (i.e., policy implications for all fields, from the Arts to Public Health).

- Proximity to New York (which allows for short-term circulation by faculty and students alike).

### **WEBSITE NARRATIVE**

The current NYU Washington, D.C., homepage and academic website narratives were shared with the committee for review and discussion in the context of the themes and synergies under consideration. Members noted a desire to highlight the unique attributes of a study-away experience, including access to local expertise and resources, interdisciplinary courses, and experiential opportunities. The committee agreed to make revisions to the narrative on a Google Doc that Global Programs will share with the group prior to its next meeting.

### **AFFILIATE DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS**

The committee considered briefly how best to include affiliate schools/departments in the ongoing curriculum development discussions, and agreed to take up the topic at its next meeting.

### **GLOBAL CURRICULUM AND FACULTY DEVELOPMENT FUND**

At the previous meeting, the new Global Faculty Fund (GFF) was announced. This fund 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 Office of General Counsel is working with the Site Directors and legal counsel at each Site to create guidelines that take into account the various local labor laws and tax restrictions.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Global Programs will share with the committee a version of the D.C. website narrative as a Google Doc.
- Next meeting: the committee agreed to focus on academic advising, public events, the website narrative, the question of how to involve affiliate departments in its discussions, and leadership initiatives (with Melody Barnes).