

NYU Paris Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 18, 2019, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM EST

President's Conference Room (Bobst 1218)

Attendees

- Afrodesia McCannon, Chair (Liberal Studies)
- Alfred Galichon (NYU Paris)
- Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt - MCC)
- Lisa Goldfarb (Gallatin)
- Masette Broderick (FAS - Art History)
- Pierre Germain (Courant - Mathematics)
- Ron Sadoff (Steinhardt - Music & Performing Arts Professions)
- Sana Odeh (Courant - Computer Science)
- Sofiane Bouarroudj (NYU Abu Dhabi)
- Eliot Borenstein (FAS; Senior Academic Convenor for the Global Network)
- Linda Mills (Vice Chancellor and Senior Vice Provost for Global Programs and University Life)
- Nancy Morrison (Global Programs)
- Tyra Liebmann (Global Programs)
- Janet Alperstein (Global Programs)

Meeting Minutes

Afrodesia McCannon opened the meeting as the new committee chair and proposed the meeting follow a 'Robert's Rules lite' order to which the committee agreed.

Janet Alperstein discussed ways that Global Programs is promoting additional sources of study away funding for students, including weekly workshops and partnering with the NYU Leadership Initiative. Linda Mills emphasized the importance of highlighting various financial aid resources at the university in order to break the stigma of financial barriers to study away.

Nancy Morrison discussed sustainability initiatives in the Office of Global Programs and the sustainability efforts highlighted in Alfred Galichon's Site Director report. Linda Mills mentioned that the issue of sustainability is one raised by many students. Global Programs is working with the Office of Sustainability to assess and reduce the study away carbon footprint.

Alfred Galichon discussed his Site Director Report (see attached). Of particular note, Alfred noted that upwards of 350 students are expected to be enrolled for the Spring 2020 semester at NYU Paris. This is a significant increase over previous semesters and the staff at NYU Paris are working hard to secure additional housing and expand academic offerings.

Afrodesia McCannon asked about the capacity of NYU Paris. Alfred Galichon replied that current capacity is 400 and Spring 2020 will be the first semester to push towards this number. Alfred did indicate one possible constraint in growing involves the lack of many large classroom spaces, forcing the site to focus on smaller class sizes. Alfred mentioned that this is attractive to students as an alternative to their experiences in NYC. Alfred detailed that most classes at NYU Paris are capped at 18 students, with only 4-5 classes above this. Alfred also mentioned other possible capacity expanding options, if needed, such as starting classes at 8am instead of 9am or expanding the number of evening classes; capacity is therefore not a major concern at this time.

Nancy Morrison highlighted the student enrollment imbalance between Fall and Spring semesters, adding that if we can increase numbers for Fall semesters it would help alleviate the need to find housing at the last minute for Spring semesters. Sana Odeh asked why more students study away in the Spring. Linda Mills replied that this is a widespread trend across universities and may be explained in part by a hesitation from students to spend the summer away from campus followed immediately by a study away semester in the Fall. The transition from Sophomore to Junior year was also mentioned. Nancy added that some curricula and programs are designed to send students away in the Spring, and that Global Programs welcomes the addition of more Fall programs to re-balance this phenomenon.

Janet Alperstein presented the data packet to the committee, noting an expectation that Tandon will see growth in the number of students they send to Paris. Janet highlighted that the French department is also working on ways to increase the number of students they send.

Linda Mills mentioned that despite a national downward trend surrounding studying away, NYU continues to see increases in participation, and particularly among external visiting students. Janet Alperstein suggested that this could be the result of other institutions not offering discipline-specific programs.

Lisa Goldfarb inquired about student mobility issues, including whether there were difficulties in obtaining French student visas. Linda Mills and Nancy Morrison replied that the French student visa process has increased but that major issues are not being reported.

NYU Paris Site Director Report: Fall 2019

Fall 2019 has been the occasion for NYU Paris to recreate a special connection with its roots, and to look into the future. Both the past and the future of NYU Paris were evoked in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of NYU Paris which took place on September 20, 2019 as part of a collaboration between the Department of French Literature, Thought and Culture and NYU Paris. Participants included founding figure Tom Bishop, the French department chair, Phillip Usher, former site directors and members of the department, Judy Miller and Benoit Bolduc and various faculty members including Sana Odeh (Computer science) and Dave Schroeder (Music). A conversation between the Global programs leadership and several past NYU Paris directors, had a constructive conversation reaffirming the mission of NYU Paris, and speaking about its ambitions for the future. Special guests included President Andy Hamilton, Vice-Chancellor Linda Mills, FAS Dean Antonio Merlo and CAS Dean Gene Jarrett. Future plans include a cohort of Spring incoming January start first-year students in MCC for Spring 2020, the NYU Paris masterclass series offered in partnership with the French department, and how to manage the growth of the site with an ever-growing number of students (+18 fall 2019/2018, +70 expected spring 2020/2019).

See our enrollment report, the future is bright!

New Developments - Curriculum

- Visiting LS faculty member Luis Ramos is teaching The Politics of Enlightenment in Southern Europe and its Atlantic Colonies.
- NYUP is collaborating with LS to offer a J term course entitled Global Topics: On Keeping the Liberal World Order's Promise of Progress which has already received ~20 applications.
- An outgrowth of the January 2019 Math and CS faculty visit to Paris, is a new course for Spring 2020 in Topics in French Culture: Science & Reason from Descartes to the Present.
- Building on the interest in NY on the four-credit Phonetics, this will be offered as a new class in Paris in Spring 2020.
- Beginning in Spring 2020, Topics in Visual Art & Culture: Art in Contemporary Culture ARTCR-UE 9161 has been increased from 3 to 4 credits.
- Building on the success of the Math and Computer Science courses which were introduced in 2018-19, we are excited to add Operating Systems sponsored by Tandon CS spring only beginning Spring 2021. This will help make a semester in possible for more CS and CS Engineering students.
- NYU Paris has launched a series of “Masterclasses”, whose mission is to radiate NYU’s scholarly knowledge among the Paris community, and enhance the intellectual ties between NYU Paris and the Paris scholarly community. A pilot has been launched in June 2019 by Alfred Galichon in the fields of economics and mathematics (NYU Paris “math+econ+code” masterclass , see https://wp.nyu.edu/global_dimensions/2019/06/21/a-lab-for-pedagogical-innovation-doctoral-

[masterclasses-at-nyu-paris/](#)). The first NYU Paris masterclass offered by the department of French Literature, Thought and Culture will be given in June 2020 by Ludovic Cortade and will be called “Stars, Myths, and Politics”.

Other New Developments

Announcements: Changes in the NYU Paris Team

- Audrey Fery-Forgues joined the Student Life team in June 2019 as Communications Coordinator replacing Armand Erba. One of the first projects was to update the internal site Bonjour: <https://sites.google.com/nyu.edu/nyuparis-intranet/home>
- Early Fall 19, 4 admin staff announced they were leaving our institution after an average of 8 years at NYU Paris. 2 are leaving for personal projects (joining families far from Paris) and 2 for a career development.

Other New Initiatives of Interest (Research Initiatives)

Public programming and local engagement

- Tandem program continues to be a popular offering with 80 NYU Paris students signing up for Tandem partnerships.
- Many housing options place NYU students with local students (e.g., Cite & La Défense), as well as homestays.

Special student programming (IDBE, sustainability, other University priorities)

Committees

- GoHealthy
 - The outdoor staircases were opened, encouraging students, faculty and staff to take the stairs instead of the elevators.
 - Partnership was made with a local fruit and vegetable seller and members of NYU Paris community can now order organic fruit and vegetable baskets and have them delivered to their residence or NYU.
- GoGreen (see [sample GoGreen letter](#))
 - A main change in office management and purchasing initiated by GoGreen team: NYU Paris no longer purchases any plastic or paper cups, starting Fall 2019. In addition, NYU Paris is distributing NYU Paris mugs to all incoming students in the beginning of the semester, which they can use to drink water from fountains on each floor, and refrain from using plastic bottles. From January to August, the site consumed 24,000 paper cup for events or for drinking water (5 fountains on the site).
 - Another project initiative under “GoGreen” was to remove the garbage can from the classrooms on one floor and only keep them in the lounges. This way we save as many plastic bags every day. If we extend the initiative to all classrooms, we can save more than 2,800 50 liter plastic bags a year.

- In the summer NYU Paris also tested the possibility of opening an external emergency stairway to avoid using the 2 elevators in between levels. This project was discussed with public safety as well. This project was extremely well received by students and employees, and continues this Fall.
- GoShiny (see [sample GoShiny email](#))

Residential Life

- NYU Paris students have three different housing options
 - a. Residence halls: Montsouris (89 beds), Cité Universitaire - Fondation des Etats Unis (20 beds), Cite Universitaire - Maison de l'Île-de-France (65 beds), La Défense (28 beds)
 - b. Homestays through Host Families in Paris agency (11 students)
 - c. Private apartments if exempt from housing (8 students)
- Students are supported by 7 Peer Mentors (current NYU Paris students) and 4 Resident Assistants (local students who are on call between 10 pm - 8 am).
- LS faculty in Montsouris residence for AY 2019/2020 and AY 2020/2021 is newly appointed Luis Ramos.

Student Programming and Activities

- The Student Life team is testing Slate for activities and trip sign ups in an attempt to limit the number of different applications to manage sign-ups.
- 11 active [student clubs](#): Cheese Club, Environmental Club, Photography Club, NYU Paris Fashion Club, Service Club, Paris Noir, Short Film Production Club, Social Media Team, Facilitate Equity, Media Club, Tandem club (80 NYU Paris students for Fall 2019).
- NYU Paris and NYU London students meet again to volunteer in refugee camps in Calais.
- Students have the opportunity to participate in activities and events organized by NYU Paris (cultural portion of the program) as well as Peer mentors and Resident Assistants.

Inclusion, Diversity, Belonging and Equity (IDBE)

- Global Equity Fellow (GEF) for the fall is Oyetunde Olubowale. Our GEF is organizing bi-weekly events to provide support and collect feedback from students on their experiences in relation to IDBE. They are also attending weekly meetings with the Assistant Director for Student Life to discuss their research projects.
- Philippe LeCorre, Senior Academic Advisor for Academic Development and a specialist on China, offered a workshop for staff and faculty to provide more background on China and the cultural differences that our Chinese national students might experience abroad. He also met with interested students from China to discuss western culture and politics to help them navigate their classes better.
- Philippe LeCorre also met with LS frosh to discuss western culture and politics to help them navigate their classes better.

Co-curricular Engagement

- [Six faculty led trips](#) offered: Legendary Ancient Brittany, Loire Valley - Celebrating 500 Years of Leonardo DaVinci, Strasbourg, Calais and day trips to Reims and Nantes.
- During Beth Epstein's leave, two senior advisers are jointly running the Academic team: Catherine Healey, a long-time Faculty at NYU, and; Philippe Le Corre, the newly appointed Senior Academic Advisor for Academic Development.

Program Evaluations

According to the Spring 2019 evaluations, students find studying in Paris to be challenging (one-third reply "very challenging"). The co-curricular activities are ranked very high (77% of the upper-classmen rank them as "good" or "excellent", only 53% for the LS freshmen). 89% of LS freshmen find that their study at the site has helped them develop an understanding of people who are different from them; 77% of themselves. On-site orientation for upperclassmen is appreciated by the majority. The service brought by the student life staff is also predominantly appreciated with three out of four upperclassmen showing satisfaction -- the site shall work on identifying areas for improvement to ensure we are meeting expectations for all of our students. The site will also assess why only two-thirds of upperclassmen showed satisfaction regarding wellness resources; high demand and congestion may be factors. Housing felt very safe and satisfactory for freshmen, less so for upperclassmen. Overall, the satisfaction with the NYU Paris experience is good (88% of the upperclassmen are somewhat or very satisfied, and 90% of the freshmen).