

## NYU Paris Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 29, 2017, 11:30am-12:45pm  
383 Lafayette, C06 (Basement Conference Center)

### ATTENDEES

- Benoit Bolduc (Site Director, NYU Paris)
- Afrodesia McCannon (Liberal Studies)
- David Velleman (FAS - Philosophy)
- Henriette Goldwyn (FAS - French)
- Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt - Media, Culture, and Communication)
- Judy Miller (NYUAD)
- Sofiane Bouarroudj (NYUAD)
- Andrew Romig (Gallatin)
- Gerard Ben Arous (Courant Institute of Mathematical Science)
- Alec Marantz (FAS - Linguistics)
- Ed Berenson (FAS - History/Institute of French Studies)
- Mosette Broderick (FAS - Art History)
- John Robertson (NYU Shanghai)
- Eliot Borenstein (FAS - Russian and Slavic Studies; Senior Convenor)
- Linda Mills (Vice Chancellor, Global Programs and University Life)
- Nancy Morrison (Vice President, Global Programs)
- Jaci Czarnecki (Student Services, Global Programs)
- Libby Perkowski (Global Programs)

### INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

As the global network continues to evolve and play an increasingly significant role in contributing to NYU's academic mission, and in response to suggestions from two key faculty committees, the University created new part-time faculty leadership roles related to global academic and faculty planning and conducted open searches to fill them. Coming out of that process, senior faculty members from five schools (i.e., Arts and Science, Global Public Health, Medicine, Shanghai, and Tisch) have taken on new roles over the past year:

- Associate Vice Chancellors for Global Network Academic Planning: Professor [Olugbenga \("Gbenga"\) Ogedegbe](#) (School of Medicine and College of Global Public Health) and Professor [Marianne Petit](#) (Tisch School of the Arts and NYU Shanghai)
- Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Network Faculty Planning: Professor [Zvi Ben-Dor Benite](#) (Faculty of Arts and Science)
- Senior Academic Convenor for the Global Network: Professor [Eliot Borenstein](#) (Faculty of Arts and Science)

Faculty members should feel free to reach out to Gbenga, Marianne, Zvi, or Eliot with comments or questions about the global network at any time.

## SITE DIRECTOR REPORT

Benoit Bolduc, Site Director at NYU Paris, went through his written report (distributed to the Committee prior to the meeting), taking note of several highlights:

- **Clustering:** in his report, Bolduc mentioned several areas with potential for course clustering to create a series of distinctive themes that would facilitate a new level of site identity at NYU Paris. One clustering theme in particular -- Gastronomy and Fashion -- appears particularly promising and could foster collaboration across several schools, including Stern and Gallatin.
- **New Advising Program at NYU Paris:** to facilitate relationships with faculty and improve academic advising, NYU Paris has instituted a new program through which each student is assigned to a faculty member at the site, based on academic interest. The faculty member serves as another adult to whom a student can turn if they have any questions, and the program also helps to break the student body into smaller cohorts.
- **Local Engagement and Affordability**
  - *Tandem Partnership:* NYU Paris has also instituted a new program whereby an NYU student is paired with and introduced via email to a French student prior to his or her arrival in Paris. The French student assists with some orientation activities and can also be a basis to form friendships within the local student community. Approximately 30-40 students were paired this year, but Bolduc hopes to expand the program and, possibly, open up some classes at NYU Paris to the French Tandem partnership students.
  - *Student Life Activities:* based on student feedback, NYU Paris is in the process of rethinking how to best serve students.
    - NYU Paris has long offered tickets to many cultural events (for example, the opera and the ballet), but has recently begun to offer sporting events, such as soccer and rugby, with great success. The site will also look into offering a spiritual retreat, possibly to a nearby monastery.
    - The site will also focus on developing its relationships with local community organizations so as to make them more easily accessible to students, providing additional opportunities for local engagement. NYU Paris students are quite independent, and prefer to participate in local activities over those organized by the site. The Committee wondered if it might be possible to learn more about students' decision-making process for studying away, which Global Programs will look into.
  - *New Residence Hall:* NYU Paris is entering into an agreement with Cite Universitaire (CIUP) for 65 beds in a brand new building on CIUP's campus, replacing Republique as a residence hall for upperclass students. The new CIUP building is state of the art, carbon neutral, and less expensive than many of

Paris's other housing options. Furthermore, it will provide for new opportunities for local engagement, as NYU students will be sharing a common kitchen with French students. Lastly, CIUP offers cultural programming to students and was recently described as one of Paris's "hidden jewels" in an article by *Le Monde*.

- **Communications:** NYU Paris has recently hired a communications coordinator, who has transformed the way the site communicates with students and has created a new visual identity for the site. The coordinator is able to track the various social media platforms used by students, and his techniques could also be helpful to other sites.

## **PROGRAM EVALUATIONS**

Bolduc was pleased to see higher ratings in the program evaluations in areas the site has worked hard to improve, in particular around cultural programming and academic advising at the site.

Bolduc was also pleased that NYU Paris has been consistently recognized for the strength of its academics. Some courses in Art History and MCC have continued to be a challenge, and the Committee noted the particular challenges NYU Paris encounters in terms of faculty hiring and recruiting, and the differing teaching styles between France and the U.S.

## **DATA PACKET AND CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENTS**

The Committee went through the data packet, which includes enrollment trends both at the site and individual course offerings. It was noted that, while different course type and levels may determine ideal enrollment numbers, most courses work best when there are at least 10 students in the class.

Bolduc expressed his desire to grow the site in a way that adds energy and dynamism, though growth has been stalled by recent world events. Outside of the humanities, the Committee agreed that there is potential to build cohorts in engineering, mathematics, marketing, computer science and economics, especially if a program can be designed that would satisfy requirements at NYUNY, NYUAD and NYUSH. Vertical majors (such as STEM majors) are, in some ways, easier to build at the global sites as strict course sequencing provides better predictability regarding the academic needs of the cohort.

The Committee also noted that many students, especially those graduating early or with multiple majors and/or minors, can often feel overwhelmed by requirements, making it difficult to fit in study away. Members of the student services team regularly visit frosh cohorts in CAS and Steinhardt to inform of study away opportunities early, and they are happy to do the same for other schools. In addition, the study away planner is also a useful tool for students to plan and incorporate study away into their experience.

The Committee agreed that the global sites provide an important and different learning experience in that it allows for a much smaller educational experience than on the Square and

for students to take classes with others not in the majors. The Committee discussed whether there should be some sort of study away or global experience requirement at NYU, given its importance to the University's identity. It was noted that the GPS scholarship and the lower living costs in some cities have made study away accessible to most students, and that Global Programs is exploring the possibility of adding a few two-credit courses to the curriculum as an additional affordability measure.

## **LS FROSH PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION**

As discussed at the SSAC meeting in the fall, Afrodesia McCannon (Liberal Studies) provided an overview of the pre-orientation information given to Liberal Studies frosh before they arrive in Paris. Upon acceptance in the program, incoming frosh initially receive weekly newsletters, followed by bi-weekly newsletters, advising them on both logistical information (e.g. visa deadlines), academic preparation (summer readings) and cultural orientation (including past student perspectives). In addition, the program has created several webinars for students to watch on their own time and a website that is complete with information for both students and parents. Upon arrival, Liberal Studies frosh have an overnight trip to a chateau in France, which is a very effective bonding experience.

## **AY17-18 REMINDERS**

The Committee was reminded to please notify the academics team in Global Programs if your department has any course changes for the AY17-18 year. If you will be on sabbatical at any point next year, please also notify the staffer of who has been nominated to represent your department.

## **NEXT STEPS**

- Further explore areas for course clustering.
- Global Programs will explore data that can provide insight into students' decision-making process for study away.