

NYU Prague Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 27, 2017, 8:30am-10:00am

383 Lafayette, C06 (Basement Conference Center)

Attendees:

- Jiri Pehe (Site Director, NYU Prague)
- Eliot Borenstein (FAS – Russian and Slavic Studies)
- Gwyneth Bravo (NYUAD)
- Chris Jaehnig (Tisch)
- Abdul Noury (NYUAD)
- Joe Pichirallo (Tisch)
- David Schroeder (Steinhardt – Jazz Studies)
- Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt – MCC)
- John Robertson (NYU Shanghai)
- Matthew Santirocco (Provost's Office)
- Nancy Morrison (Vice President, Global Programs)
- Tyra Liebmann (Global Programs)
- Yonni Walker (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

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

- Jiri briefly discussed the composition of the student cohort and noted the challenges of balancing and achieving healthy enrollments as cohort populations shift.
- Regarding affordability, Jiri noted that the low cost of living in Prague may be a factor for many students when they decide to study away.
- **Academic Developments at NYU Prague:** Tisch has added two new courses to be held at the NYU Prague academic center for FAMU students, and Steinhardt MCC has added a new course on gaming.
- **Local Engagement and Affordability**
 - Jiri is pleased that NYU Prague will expand the already robust conference program. The refugee crisis in Europe continues to be a topic of discussion at NYU Prague, both inside and outside the classroom. The site would like to continue organizing opportunities for seminars, conferences, and colloquiums.
 - 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.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

The Program Evaluations, developed by a committee comprising faculty and site directors, were first administered to the global sites in Spring 2015, and have since undergone extensive changes to ask more targeted questions and to shorten and clarify the survey.

Jiri noted the number of responses was slightly down from the previous term. Committee members suggested requesting feedback after the end of the semester to offer more time for student reflection. Nancy Morrison from Global Programs and Aurora Wallace (Steinhardt – MCC) discussed a new evaluation tool that would allow students to submit feedback on their cellular phones and potentially increase the response rate.

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 a strong cohort of students from Stern continue to attend the site, total enrollment was slightly down for Spring 2017.

Jiri expressed a desire for the site to advance conversations about immersion and global community. The Committee agreed that there is potential to build cohorts across various disciplines through course clustering to create a series of distinctive themes that would facilitate a new level of site identity at NYU Prague.

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. 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.

NEXT STEPS

- Further explore areas for course clustering.
- Global Programs will look into conducting a qualitative analysis of various student profile at the sites.