**DATE**: November 21, 2023

**TO**: Anne Marie Sowder, Chair of the College Council Curriculum Committee

**FROM**: Curriculum Subcommittee

Sanjoy Chakraborty (Chair), Allison Berkoy, Henry Africk

**RE**: Final Report for Proposal 23-01: Academic Minor in History

**PROPOSAL OVERVIEW:**

The Department of Social Sciences proposes the creation of a 15-credit Academic minor in History. This will require five courses from a menu of courses in History, African-American Studies, or Latin-American studies; four of the five courses must be designated as HIS, and one of the five courses must be an HIS 3000-level course. The courses proposed for this history minor combine broad-based survey courses in US and World History with more focused upper-division courses such as History of Technology, US Immigration History, and Topics in Modern World History that generally require advanced research and writing from students.

**RATIONALE:**

The Academic Minor in History provides students with the opportunity to study history more intensively than would otherwise be permitted. A history minor will highlight social, cultural, and political aspects of human affairs that are essential to fully understanding technology but might not be emphasized in technical or applied majors. In addition, many of the courses dovetail with General Education requirements at City Tech. They fulfill multiple categories in CUNY’s Flexible Common Core, Interdisciplinary requirements, the Liberal Arts Capstone requirement, and the Writing Intensive requirement.

**STRENGTHS:**

* Aligns with General Education requirements
* Flexible Course Menu; offers a wide range of course selections tailored to student interests.
* Broadens students' perspectives, helping them comprehend the interconnectedness of various domains such as politics, economics, sociology, architecture, technology, and literature.
* Emphasizes learning robust techniques for historical research and developing effective argumentation skills.
* Foster students to assess historical sources and understand cause-and-effect in history.
* Improves general research abilities and competency in evaluating credible historical information.

**WEAKNESS:**

None noted.

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS DISCUSSED:**

In the review conducted by the subcommittee and the subsequent meeting with the Provost's office, a few modifications were suggested. These included the use of precise taxonomy in defining learning outcomes, rectifying inconsistencies between course descriptions and numbers, and mainly refining the criteria for research papers in the HIS 3000-level courses. Additionally, it was proposed to retitle 'independent study' as 'individualized study' to better align with graduation requirements. The proposers diligently addressed each feedback, implementing the suggested changes and providing necessary clarifications.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES:**

The proposal for the Academic minor in History was assigned to the subcommittee on September 18, 2023. The subcommittee convened on September 26, 2023, to finalize their feedback and recommendations, which were subsequently sent to the proposer on October 6, 2023. The revised proposal was received on October 9, 2023. The subcommittee met with Provost Pamela Brown, Associate Provost Reginald Blake, Kim Cardascia (Provost’s Office), Dean Justin Vasquez-Poritz, Prof. Kyle Cuilderone, and Prof. Eric Rodriguez to discuss the revisions on November 9, 2023. The final revised version was received on November 17, 2023.