**DATE**: April 9, 2024

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

**FROM**: Curriculum Subcommittee: Professors Dionne Bennett, Elizabeth Milonas (Chair), Yu Wang

**RE**: Final Report for Proposal 23-04: Information Design Theories (ARCH2205ID) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Description:** A new interdisciplinary course which will look at the different phases of information design including how information is stored in the computer, transmitted over networks, and presented in a way that human beings can understand or enjoy.

**Proposal Rationale:** We live in an increasingly data-driven and visually oriented world. As a result, presenting complex information in a clear, concise, and visually engaging manner is an essential skill in a world where information overload is common. This course on information design that is taught by professors with backgrounds in computer science and design has been created to prepare students to work with data at various levels and across different forms of communication. Information design refers to the transformation(s) of information to adapt it to a media in order to achieve a specific goal. Information design is not only about the final multimedia presentation but also about how data is derived, how it is stored and processed, and finally used to tell a story to an audience. An interdisciplinary approach is ideal for such a course that highlights both the computer science and graphic aspects, as well as the social and cultural aspects and ramifications, of how information is created. This proposed curriculum will be a solid addition to and provide a foundation for courses currently offered in the Architectural Technology Department (e.g., ARCH 3550 - Building Performance Workshop; ARCH 3590 - Parametric Computation, Materials, and Fabrication; ARCH 3691Advanced Design and Building Information Modeling), the Computer Systems Technology Department (CST 2312 - Information and Data Management I; CST 3602 - Data Visualization), the Communication Design Department (COMD 3316 Advanced Image Editing; COMD3563 - Web Traffic and Analytics; COMD 4720- Multimedia Design I), and the Social Science Department (ECON3301 - Visualizing and Mapping Economic Data; PHIL 2106 - Philosophy of Technology).

**Strengths:**

This course offers students a unique interdisciplinary perspective on information design, enhancing their design proficiency and broadening their perspectives. It provides comprehensive insights into diverse facets of design, encompassing technical, social, and cultural dimensions, empowering students with a holistic understanding that will significantly strengthen their skills and outlook in the field.

**Weaknesses:**

None.

**Subcommittee Activities:**

After communicating a set of initial thoughts and recommendations to the proposers, the subcommittee and proposers met with Provost Brown, Associate Provost Blake, and Kim Cardascia on March 13. The following suggestion for improvement were offered at this meeting:

* Proposed course be cross-listed with the CST, COMD and Architecture departments
* Proposed course be reviewed by the Humanities and African American departments
* Consider changing the title to “Information Design Theories”
* Change proposed course number to 2000 level
* Include a sample assignment

All recommendation/suggestions are reflected in the final proposal with the exception of cross-listing the proposed course with a few departments. This recommendation/suggestion is being pursued and will be finalized before the end of the month.

The proposed course was approved by the Interdisciplinary Committee on February 15, 2024.