

**New York City College of Technology**  
**Interdisciplinary Committee**  
**December 9, 2014**

Reneta D. Lansiquot, Founding Chair  
Sean P. MacDonald, Secretary

Present: Reneta D. Lansiquot, Sean P. MacDonald, Monica Berger, Candido Cabo, Ezra Halleck, Robert Leston, Rebecca Shapiro, Andleeb Zameer, Reginald Blake, Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar, Paul King, Janet Liou-Mark

Guest: Gulgun Bayaz-Ozturk

Excused: Johannah Rodgers, Laureen Park

Absent: Dionne Bennett, Gwen Cohen Brown, Aida Egues, Laina Karthikeyan, Jean Hillstrom, Olufemi Sodeinde

Meeting Agenda:

1. Reneta (Chair, New Courses subcommittee) presented course for recommendation vote.

- **PHYS 1010 Physics in the Kitchen**

Claire Stewart, Ilya Grigorenko, and Roman Kezerashvili

Previous concerns were raised about who can take the course; anyone can take it; there is no physics prerequisite.

Also raised previously was the question of how Physics and Hospitality Management divide the time; the course outline now clearly specifies this information.

Candido noted other weaknesses 1) the application didn't check off the college option box; Reneta noted that this may be an oversight; 2) there are two course outlines. The second one identifies who will teach what. 3) how would other science disciplines teach the course? Reneta pointed out that the course outline is so specific with physics, and that the template for the course would need to be changed in order for other sciences to teach the course. Rebecca suggested a name change. Reneta pointed out that course title Science in the Kitchen was suggested to proposers several times. She reminded the committee that we need to focus on whether the course is interdisciplinary.

Motion to recommend Physics in the Kitchen as an ID course for the college option: Reneta motioned; Candido seconded; unanimously approved.

2. Reneta provides update on Special Topics Interdisciplinary courses and presents new course, Behavioral Economics (Gulgun Bayaz Ozturk) for discussion.

Behavioral Economics proposal was introduced and summarized by Gulgun Bayaz Ozturk; Prof. Ozturk described the format and how the focus of the course would draw upon the perspectives of psychology and economics. Monica raised question about the new discipline of Behavioral Economics; it takes into consideration psychological behavior and perspectives; Reneta asked

whether a psychologist and an economist would approach key questions and methodologies differently. These questions were clearly addressed in the presentation.

The course was approved by Social Science Department at its departmental meeting in early December, with plans to submit the proposal to college council by mid-February 2015.

Reneta asked for volunteers to review the course: Ezra Halleck, Andleeb Zameer, Robert Leston, and Rebecca Shapiro volunteered to review. The review should be completed before the next meeting of the Interdisciplinary Committee on February 3, 2015.

3. Monica, Dionne, and Reneta provide the status of the Interdisciplinary courses brochure for students, draft brochure design and updated text.

The posters and brochure: the poster still needs a short paragraph defining what an ID course is and a QR code.

4. Ezra and Paul provide updates on the student survey, contest and poster.

What is needed is a follow up email on the survey and completion of an IRB application for the survey; Ezra volunteered to do the paperwork. Paul suggested that when the proposals are being developed, the proposers should have two professors from each of two disciplines.

Ezra discussed issues with the poster and the survey; if we are going to be providing prizes, then we need to collect information on student identity; Monica indicated there are ways to do this without compromising the anonymity of the survey.

Ezra reviewed the reasons for the questions in the survey; indicate Pathways, what Bachelors or Associates programs they are in; academic interests, etc. There would also be space for students to indicate academic and non-academic interests. Monica suggested ways of reducing the number of questions to elicit the best information; also AIR can help in streamlining the questionnaire; Rebecca noted that 1-5 could be placed toward the end of the survey; perhaps start with question 7; Again, AIR can assist. Reneta stressed the importance of getting answers to the most important questions first. Monica questioned whether we make the first few questions optional; Paul noted the purpose of the survey is to get a benchmark measure over time of the courses they have taken and what their interests are. So questions 6-9 are most important; and we can prioritize the questions that follow.

Concerns voiced: survey may be too long and students may have a limited attention span on this. To deal with that, one suggestion was to put questions 1-5 at the end of the survey.

5. Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar (Chair, Social Outreach subcommittee) report on our five Special Topics Interdisciplinary courses presentation series and plans for Interdisciplinary Mixer next semester.

Paul will be coordinating the Interdisciplinary mixer on January 22, 2015.

6. Next meeting: Tuesday Feb. 3 at 2 PM in the Faculty Commons (tentative)

Motion to adjourn: Reneta