

New York City College of Technology
Interdisciplinary Committee
February 25, 2016

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

Present: Reneta D. Lansiquot, Monica Berger, Amanda Almond, Reginald A. Blake, Candido Cabo, Aida Egues, Laina Karthikeyan, Jean Hillstrom, Paul C. King, Janet Liou-Mark, Sean P. MacDonald, Laureen Park, Olufemi Sodeinde, Andleeb Zameer, Rebecca Shapiro

Absent: Dionne Bennett, Ezra Halleck, Johannah Rodgers (on leave)

Excused: Gwen Cohen-Brown

Meeting agenda:

1. “Trouble-shooting” informing students issue. Interdisciplinary course name and number minor curriculum change vote, Reneta D. Lansiquot

Reneta addressed the issue of students enrolling in courses thinking they were ID and later discovering that they were not. This semester, 75 students were registered in the wrong section. Reneta proposed that we add an ID designation to every course title and change the number at end of course to signify whether it is or is not ID. The word interdisciplinary will be indicated in the course title as the first word; Kim in curriculum will make this change.

Sean pointed out that Degree Works also needs to reflect all these changes. Motion to recommend that an ID designation be added to all course offerings that are interdisciplinary each semester: Laina motioned; 14 yes; 1 abstention

2. Jean Hillstrom (Co-Chair, Existing Courses subcommittee) present course for recommendation vote.
 - **SBS 2000 Research Methods for the Behavioral and Social Sciences**, Pa Her
 - **BIO 1201 Interdisciplinary Biology II**, Tatiana Voza and Geoff Zylstra
 - **LIB 2205/ARCH 2205 Learning Places: Understanding the City**, Christopher Swift and Ting Chin

<https://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/ids/submit-proposal/current-proposals/>

SBS 2000 Research Methods, Pa Her

Andleeb reviewed the course and noted that it still needed a clear rationale; however, he had no objection to the proposal: Reneta motioned to approve; approved unanimously.

BIO 1201 ID Bio II, Tatiana Voza and G. Zylstra:

There were no clear objections to the course; all of the issues that arose initially were addressed in this revised proposal.

The same students who register for the lecture will register for the lab for this course, with a maximum of 24 students. The course will be co-taught, with 80% Bio and 20 % Social Science. The course is to serve as an experiment from which we hope to learn how the course might be conceived in the future.

It was recommended that the application be changed to indicate a guest lecturer format rather than co-taught. Otherwise, there will be an issue of the Social Science lecturer not being compensated for time in the class.

Motion: to change the teaching designation to guest lecturer: Jean; approved unanimously.

LIB 2205/ARCH 2205 Learning Places: Understanding the City, Christopher Swift and Ting Chin

Report: Rebecca noted that the proposal did not address the audience and was not specific enough; Olufemi also reviewed and noted that there were issues that were not made clear in the application. Specifically, it was not clear who was going to do what in terms of assignments, etc. Reneta noted that there was an incorrect course code listed. She also pointed out that this is a special topics course and that both Chris and Ting have departmental support; they clearly noted theme of the course, that it will be co-taught, and that they will use ID place-based learning; the course has a clearly stated purpose, stressing student research. It seems that they want to do integrative learning, but still need to clarify the case studies and the final report, and what will be in them as far as what students will be required to do. The course will be co-taught 50-50 with a theme of researching theatre spaces and the architecture of the spaces. Reneta believes the course is ID and yes there were parts that were unclear.

Monica indicated that the library has requested a procedure indicating that this course will run as a Th-Arch course, and there should be a process in place that each department is informed of changes like this as it will aid in the MCF preparation process.

Motion to approve: Jean; seconded: Reneta; Vote: 2-Y; 4-N; Abstain -8

It was recommended that the course needs revision to address the weaknesses noted by the reviewers.

Motion to revoke the vote: Lauren, Reneta: seconded: Vote: 10 – Y, 3 abstain.

Revote: A motion to vote to approve this section of this course as fulfilling ID and requesting that the proposers provide the requested clarifications:

Jean: motion approve; Laina seconded. Vote: Y – 10; 1-abstain

In favor of amendment 11 – 1-abstain

3. Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) for ID courses vote
Open-ended questions for teaching portfolio, Lauren Park (Chair, Course Development

subcommittee) and Amanda Almond.

Amanda presented the results of the faculty survey: 63% of all faculty teaching ID courses this semester responded to the survey (19). The findings were summarized; one way to interpret the findings is through the use of a Principal Component analysis; factor 1: items that overlapped and have same theme. Amanda came up with some names of these categories: the usual course assessment questions; 2: interdisciplinary outcomes, and 3: Effectiveness of the instructor.

9 people responded to qualitative questions on the survey (47% of respondents; 30% of Spring 2016 ID faculty); 19 responded overall; 9 responded to qualitative questions.

Suggestions were made - we can compare the set of 17 questions to the questions in the three categories. We need to think about deciding which suggestions should be incorporated into the original 17 questions. We can add questions about the way in which the courses are team taught: co-taught, Learning Community, etc. We will run survey in ID courses.

Motion: to present proposed changes to the SETs for ID courses to Personnel Committee of College Council as a proposal.

Approved unanimously

4. Definite need for evening/weekend sections. ID courses during the summer sessions?

Jean noted the lack of interdisciplinary course sections offered in evenings and on weekends. Reneta encouraged those teaching ID courses to consider teaching evening/weekend sections.

5. **ID Matters: Connecting Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Learning** symposium
Friday, April 15, 9:00 AM-3 PM

Atrium Amphitheatre (breakfast) and Faculty Lounge (working lunch)

MC: Reginald A. Blake; **Keynote speaker:** Dr. Stephanie Pfirman

ID Panels:

1. Exploring Weird Science and Virtual Worlds (Moderator: Reneta D. Lansiquot): Candido Cabo, Jean Hillstrom, Larueen Park, David Smith, Ricky Santana, Zianne Cuff
2. Interdisciplinary Special Topics Courses (Moderator: Provost Bonne August): Energy Resources (Diana Samaroo, Melanie Villatoro), Healing the Body: The Visual Culture of Medicine (Sandra Chang), Learning Places: Understanding the City (Jason Montgomery and Nora Almeida), The Evolving Face of Race, Class, and Gender Identity (Christine Thorpe), Science in the Kitchen (Ilya Grigorenko, Robert Walljasper)

Working lunch: ID course designation and faculty experiences (Facilitator: Paul C. King)

3. Strategies for Interdisciplinary Publishing Success (Moderator: Associate Provost Pamela Brown): Monica Berger, Gwen Cohen Brown, Laina Karthikeyan, Reneta D. Lansiquot
4. Knowing Brooklyn (Moderator: Dionne Bennett): Sean P. MacDonald, Sean Scanlan/BWRC, ???

Reminder about the symposium scheduled for Friday, April 15, 2016: The title is 'ID Matters: Connecting Service, Scholarship, Teaching and Learning.'
Dr. Stephanie Pferman has been confirmed as the keynote speaker; posters will be out soon.

Jean will facilitate the lunch if Paul is not available.

6. Providing a framework for ID Special Topics courses
We need to further clarify the criteria for special topics courses.
7. ID Symposium survey: Reminder to complete survey by Feb. 27th for those who have not yet responded and are teaching ID courses.
8. Interdisciplinary/Research Mixer, May 4?

Plans are still under development

9. Interdisciplinary Research Grant due to OSP, February 29
Reneta reminded those considering completing an application for this grant of the Feb. 29th deadline.

Motion to adjourn: Reneta

Next meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2016