**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

February 3, 2015

Reneta D. Lansiquot, Founding Chair

Sean P. MacDonald, Secretary

**Present**: Reneta D. Lansiquot, Sean MacDonald, Monica Berger, Dionne Bennett, Gwen Cohen Brown, Candido Cabo, Jean Hillstrom, Laina Karthikeyan, Paul King, Janet Liou-Mark, Laureen Park, Johanna Rodgers, Rebecca Shapiro, Olufemi Sodeinde, Andleeb Zameer

**Absent**: Reginald Blake, Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar, Ezra Halleck

**Excused**: Aida Egues, Robert Leston

1. Approval of minutes from November 11 and December 9, 2014.

Motion to approve minutes of November 11, 2014 meeting: Rebecca Shapiro; second: Sean MacDonald

Motion to approve minutes of December 9, 2014 meeting: Johanna Rodgers; second: Laina Karthikeyan

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

* **Behavioral Economics**

Gulgun Bayaz Ozturk

Rebecca read proposed changes to statement of how the course is interdisciplinary; the course is new enough that it could be ID. Jean noted that the methodologies of the two disciplines are very different in many cases; Andleeb pointed out that in the example provided, biochemistry is not inherently ID and suggested that the course outline could explain more explicitly the psychological implications.

Jean agreed this question could be addressed more clearly in the explanation. Suggestion that the name of the course should reflect that the Economics portion of the course would be 2 credits and Psychology portion would be 1 credit. Paul suggested that the name of the proposer should be noted on the review sheets and the department.

Motion to approve the proposal with the recommended changes. There is no need to resubmit the proposal to the IDC;

Motion to approve: Rebecca; seconded: Laina.

Jean will follow up and review recommendations with Gulgun re: recommended clarifications suggested by the committee; Reneta noted that there is no need for a re-submission; Paul suggested the proposer can reach out to committee if any further questions. Gwen noted that we want to make the process easier for when the course goes through curriculum committee.

1. Suggestions for Reimagining a course as Interdisciplinary

Reneta reminded the committee that “suggestions for reimagining a course as ID” is now posted on the homepage of the IDC on Open Lab.

1. Jean and Sean (co-chairs, Existing Courses subcommittee) review possible ID courses, including ARCH/ARTH 2321 History of Architecture: 1900 to the Present.

Jean and Sean will follow up with Shelley and Anne re: interest in submitting this course as an ID course.

1. Paul report on Gen Ed Day presentation, January 22, 2015.

The presentation was in the format of a roundtable; relatively new faculty attended. The theme was on the role of discipline coordinators. Many people indicated an interest in submitting and developing ID courses.

Reneta spoke with Provost August re: May workshop. Paul would facilitate a workshop on ID courses toward the end of the semester. Paul reported a concern that an ID label may impact a student’s access to TAP funds; are there any concerns on this? If a BTech student takes a course that is ID in the second year, does this mean he/she won’t receive TAP funds? These courses also fulfill the Flexible Core, College Option or capstone categories; if the student is in an Associate degree course, this should not affect financial aid. Even a course that is a LC with an ID designation should not affect the receipt of financial aid. Because many LC courses are paired with ENG 1101 or Intro. Math, there is concern that some of these LC have pre-requisites, so perhaps we should obtain clarification.

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

Dionne noted that we talked about adding knowledge and networks; filling white space on the brochure. Reneta suggested maybe not a tri-fold; suggested it would be good for us to see the brochure with these changes.

1. Start planning Interdisciplinary Research mixer, Wednesday, May 6, 2015.

In the past students presented their research, but maybe we want to change this format. The audience is students. Dionne suggested a working group; and noted Marta’s recent interdisciplinary studies book and suggested that perhaps she could present at the mixer. Reneta noted this would be good for a workshop for faculty. She could talk about the Black NY course and about the book. She is willing to do this. Perhaps this could be the focus of one of these topics; Johanna suggested people that are teaching ID courses could talk about their courses at the mixer. Marta could be a keynote speaker.

Dionne questioned whether a course is already ID, perhaps the process of application could be modified. A different set of requirements, perhaps fewer – maybe a smaller percentage of guest lecturers would be required, for instance; overall perhaps we could be more flexible with the requirements. Candido asked what she would change.

Reneta pointed out how the requirements are flexible and reiterated that the current mission of the IDC is that we need a critical mass of ID courses. This is the greatest need right now. Monica suggested that it would be interesting to have an ID panel at something like the Annual Faculty Research Conference or the Poster session; these programs are so structured and it would be great to be able to have something like this. There is a need for the culture that supports our work and that encourages a conversation about ID courses.

Reneta suggested we devote a meeting to further discussing these ideas; perhaps part of the next meeting of the IDC could be set aside for this. She asked that we try to come up with some ideas for us to discuss at next meeting.

Jean brought up the question of the transfer of ID courses; students have already been questioning this. Reneta noted that it is already addressed in our approved proposal and stated on our site that “if a student wishes to gain transfer credits for an ID course, an appropriate member of the ID committee will review the materials and make a recommendation.” Another question is when the number of credits don’t match. Reneta noted that this is not an IDC issue; it’s important for a syllabus to be provided to help the committee in making an assessment.

For the next meeting, we should come with ideas for the working group. Dionne will facilitate a discussion.

1. Next meeting: March 3, 2:15 PM in Faculty Commons.