**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

April 14, 2015

Reneta D. Lansiquot, Founding Chair

Sean P. MacDonald, Secretary

**Present**: Reneta D. Lansiquot, Sean P. MacDonald, Monica Berger, Dionne Bennett, Candido Cabo, Gwen Cohen Brown, Aida Egues, Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar, Ezra Halleck, Jean Hillstrom, Laina Karthikeyan, Janet Liou-Mark, Laureen Park, Johannah Rodgers, Olufemi Sodeinde, Andleeb Zameer

**Absent:** Paul King, Rebecca Shapiro

**Excused:** Reginald Blake, Robert Leston

**Meeting agenda:**

1. Approval of minutes from March 3, 2015 and March 31, 2015

Motion to approve the minutes of March 3, 2015 and March 31, 2015 was made by Candido and seconded by Reneta; approved unanimously.

1. Reneta presents course for recommendation vote.
* **PSY 2404 Personnel and Organizational Psychology**Jean Hillstorm

Candido presented his review of the proposed interdisciplinary section of PSY 2404. The interdisciplinary format would consist of guest lecturers selected from a variety of disciplines. Questions raised included how students’ interdisciplinary understanding will be evaluated, and how will we know that the variety of perspectives presented will be incorporated into the course. Reneta noted that Candid suggested adding an evaluation framework. Jean pointed out that the five guiding questions about how the interdisciplinary perspective would be applied actually propose solutions.

Comments and feedback: Dionne suggested that the discussion of race in the course not just be in the context of affirmative action.

Candido suggested that students be encouraged to bring in examples/case studies from their work places, noting that many of our students hold jobs.

Motion to approve the section of PSY 2404 Personnel and Organizational Psychology: Laina; seconded: Candido; approved unanimously.

* **PHYS 1002 Introduction to the Physics of Natural Disasters**Reginald A. Blake

Janet presented the course as Reggie was unable to attend. One section (maybe two) of PHYS 1002 Introduction to the Physics of Natural Disasters will be offered in the fall.

Gwen summarized her review of the proposal. She suggested that many other disciplines could be incorporated into this course beyond civil and electrical engineering and architecture. Examples might include health services and economics.

Group-led projects will be used in the course. The course overall meets the requirements of General Education and the college option; It is well thought out and incorporates diverse perspectives. She noted it could actually be housed in disciplines other than physics as well; however, if the course is entitled the **Physics of Natural Disasters**, it would need to be housed in the Physics Department.

This is an existing course, but would be offered as an ID course in fall 2015; suggested link to course catalog description in the course catalog.

Janet explained that the course will be housed in the Physics Dept. with the scientific focus for now in the interest of being able to offer the course in fall 2015. Future sections could have a different focus.

Aida had nothing additional to add to her review of the course.

Once the course is established, it could be expanded to other disciplines.

Discussion: Johannah asked whether this would include being able to recommend that the course be housed outside of Physics. Reneta indicated that this would be possible.

Motion to approve: Jean; seconded by Candido; approved unanimously.

Reneta made a motion that the proposers add the official course catalog description into the proposal. Gwen seconded; approved unanimously.

* Dionne reported briefly on the ID event which was very successful; it was attended by many students. Reneta proposed that we have a more detailed discussion at our next meeting in May.
* Motion to adjourn: Reneta

1. Next meeting: Tuesday, May 5 at 2:15 PM in the Faculty Commons.