

New York City College of Technology
Interdisciplinary Committee
September 16, 2014

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

Present: Monica Berger (Webmaster), Candido Cabo, Aida Egues, Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar, Ezra Halleck, Laina Karthikeyan, Paul King, Jean E. Kubeck Hillstrom, Robert Leston, Janet Liou-Mark, Laureen Park, Johannah Rodgers, Olufemi Sodeinde, Andleeb Zameer, Rebecca Shapiro (non-voting member)

Absent: Dionne Bennett (excused), Reginald Blake, Gwen Cohen-Brown

Chair Reneta Lansiquot called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

1. Minutes from May 13, 2014 meeting were approved.

Reneta began with requests for reviewers for each of the five new proposed IDC special topics courses. The previous review was based on grant funding; now they all need to be reviewed as proposed new IDC courses. Course reviews are due at least one week before our next meeting; the courses are up on the website.

The reviewers for the proposed new courses are the following:

Learning Places: Laureen, Robert, and Monica
Healing the Body: Andleeb and Urmi
Sustainable Energy: Sean, Johannah, and Olufemi
Colonialism: Aida, Gwen, and Rebecca
Physics in the Kitchen: Candido and Ezra

2. The new IDS brochure for faculty: the final version is now out; it features a new logo; also the new website has been updated with the five events presenting the new course proposals.

Monica and Dionne are working on a brochure for students to promote the ids courses. Monica has produced the text for the brochure; Dorian is also working on this. Jean stressed importance of students' checking that a course is interdisciplinary.

Reneta discussed who reviewed the initial proposals back in early June.

Monica and Urmi worked on the flyer featuring the new proposed ID courses and the scheduling of the presentations by the faculty who worked on the proposals. The question of whether there would be food available at the presentations. \$125 to \$150 has been budgeted for each of the presentations.

There is also a January workshop planned and the faculty commons will be able to provide refreshments at that session

Proposed summer ID workshop/institute on developing new interdisciplinary courses. It is hoped that we will be able to get funding for this.

So far, the ID courses that will be offered in Spring 2015 include the following:

1. Programming Narratives: Reneta Lansiquot and Candido Cabo
2. Weird Science (Reneta); there is the possibility that a second section will be offered
3. Research Methods: this course may offer a couple of sections
4. Environmental Economics: Sean MacDonald

Reneta stressed the importance of confirming soon which ID courses that will be offered in Spring 2015. There should be a complete list of all Spring ID courses by late October before the departmental MCFs are finalized before student registration begins for the Spring semester. One ongoing issue is getting room assignments.

Moving forward, the goal of ID courses should be upper level courses with a prerequisite.

Laureen reported on the results of the Capstone Committee survey; the Dean has recommended holding off on revamping the Capstone requirements but wanted the Capstone Committee to go ahead with a student survey. The sample constituted mostly non-intro LAA and LAS students. The student survey was conducted at the end of spring 2014 semester among students who were taking liberal arts and science courses (psychology, sociology and economics); A total of 181 students were surveyed.

Questions 1 -5 surveyed Capstone courses; questions 6 – 10: student responses. Q6 asked students whether they were aware of the offering of ID courses at City Tech as part of the college option; Q7 asked students about their interests in terms of interdisciplinary topics they would be interested in learning more about and asked what they would be interested in having offered in terms of interdisciplinary Capstone courses; Q8 what areas (schools) would have an interest in terms of ID course offerings.

Johannah suggested that Laureen write up a summary of the findings that would enable us to make some observations and conclusions.

Urmi asked how the sample was chosen. The Capstone committee notified all of the professors teaching Capstone courses about the survey and students in these courses were the subject of the survey.

Paul suggested perhaps a broader reach through an on-line survey that would reach more students. He also suggested we put up posters throughout the campus to make students more aware of ID course offerings. Ezra will work with Paul on promoting the advertising of ID courses – development of a poster. Dorian will work on putting it together.

Reneta reiterated that all reviews of the new ID course proposals are due no later than October 14, and that we need to assess for interdisciplinarity; after the review the courses will then go through College Council review process. Jean will send out the review form again and it still also be posted on the Open Lab website.

Motion to adjourn: Aida; seconded by Andleeb.