

New York City College of Technology
Interdisciplinary Committee
October 21, 2014

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

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

Absent: Rebecca Shapiro

Excused: Reginald A. Blake, Aida Egues, Paul C. King

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

1. Minutes from September 16, 2014 meeting were approved.
2. Jean Hillstrom (Co-chair of existing courses subcommittee) presented courses for recommendation and vote:
 - **SBS 2000 Research Methods for the Behavioral and Social Sciences** (existing course); a second section to be taught by Judith Sedaitis was submitted for consideration as Interdisciplinary. Jean motioned to approve; seconded by Candido; approved by 13 members present; 2 abstentions; opposed: 0.
 - **PSY 3405 Health Psychology** (existing course) submitted by Amanda Almond (Social Science /Psychology). The course will include guest lecturers from other disciplines; the course is currently required in Health Services Administration and Radiological Technology programs. Three sections would be offered, but only one interdisciplinary section. The offering of additional interdisciplinary sections would depend upon faculty interest and availability.

Jean presented a motion to approve this section as Interdisciplinary; Gwen seconded; 15 present voted approval; 0 abstentions; opposed: 0
3. Reneta: Update on ID courses for Spring 2015, IDS designation, and cross-listing ID courses:

Seven ID courses are needed for Spring 2015. With the votes today, we will have 7 ID courses.

Discussion: IDS designation and plans to move toward 2000-level designations: Johannah noted that this is important since there really isn't a general consensus across the College. Every department has a definition of what constitutes a 1000, 2000, 3000 level course. Current thinking is that a 1000-level course should be a first-year course. Courses that will always run as ID should be cross listed.
4. Reneta (Chair, New Courses subcommittee) presented courses for recommendation vote:
 - **LIB 3000/ARCH 3000 Learning Places** (Jason Montgomery and Maura Smale). Report by Laureen, Robert, and Monica on evaluation of the proposed course: discussion of the course's strengths; questions raised about the course prerequisites being sufficient for a 3000-level course. It was noted that the course incorporates community and place-based learning and is open to all students.

Discussion:

Johannah: How does the course relate to Library? Maura noted in the application that it relates to the world of information; students need to do research and integrate their library research into their projects; information literacy is stressed.

Reneta pointed out that the question of course numbers is a long running issue; the numbers of the ID courses are a bit skewed. We don't approve the pre-requisites. Johannah noted the course should be a 1000-level course; it was decided that this is a discussion we need to have at a future date.

Jean raised concerns about the GenEd definition of liberal arts courses by the State of NY; the definition excludes library and architecture.

Dionne noted that these questions are really College Council Curriculum Committee issues, not IDC issues. Reneta reiterated that the content of the course is essentially liberal arts.

Motion to approve: Dionne Bennett; approved: 16; 1 abstention; opposed: 0.

- **CMCE 2510 Sustainable Energy** (Diana Samaroo and Melanie Villatoro)

Discussion:

It was noted that the team-teaching format meets the ID requirement. Reneta notes we really aren't in charge of the names of the courses, but this title needed explication (she suggested adding a subtitle "Sustainable Energy: Controversies and Realities"); titles are suggested by proposers and ultimately approved by Provost.

The proposers' course title may be changed in response to issues raised that natural gas is not a sustainable energy source. In other issues with the course title, Olufemi noted that the course title should reflect the focus on natural gas, rather than sustainable energy.

Johannah recommended that the course should be renamed to reflect the course content and that it should be a 3000-level course; the course content has a broad perspective and that it is essentially a survey course rather than an ID course. Dionne stressed the importance of academic freedom in the naming of a course.

A motion to table discussion of the course until everyone on the committee has had a chance to review the course proposal was offered by Johannah and seconded by Robert.

Ezra proposed that there first be a review of the issues before taking a vote on the motion. Reneta restated that we are only voting on whether the course is ID, not on whether the name of the course accurately reflects the content of the course.

Jean made a motion to call the question; seconded by Reneta

Motion for a vote on the course was seconded by Monica; approved: 14; abstention: 1 and opposed: 1

- **HEA 2112 Colonialism: The Evolving Face of Race, Class and Gender Identity** (Monique Ferrell and Christine Thorpe)

Discussion:

Gwen spoke to the strengths of the course as an ID course; it is well thought out; the only concern is there is a lot of homework; Aida, in her evaluation report, also commented in favor noting no weaknesses; Reneta read Rebecca's report. Jean stated the course would be under the College Option,

would also be an elective and a Capstone course. Concern that we should evaluate the content as an ID course.

Reneta pointed out that these courses were reviewed during the earlier RFP process. Jean motioned to approve; unanimous approval of those present (minus Urmi)

- **ARTH 2101 Healing the Body: The Visual Culture of Medicine** (Sandra Cheng, Aida Egues, and Gwen Cohen-Brown)

Discussion:

Andleeb spoke to the strengths of the interdisciplinary content of the course, included in his report with Urmi; it meets the criteria of an ID course; Gwen noted that a course like this is not being offered anywhere else around the country, except at the graduate level; it has strong benefits in helping health care providers speak to those they are treating.

Motion to approve as ID by Jean; seconded by Dionne; approval: 14; Abstentions: 0; opposed: 0

- **PHYS 1010 Physics in the Kitchen** has had to be tabled because of concerns. It will be discussed at a future meeting
5. Ezra: Update on student contest and poster. The posters are designed to promote ID courses around the school. Monica will create a link so that we can view and comment and express preferences on the posters so that we can make a decision by our next meeting on November 11.
 6. Next meeting November 11; we will have more time to discuss the posters at that meeting. Send Ezra any comments on preferences. We also need to review the content of the posters.

Motion to adjourn: Reneta.