

**New York City College of Technology**  
**Interdisciplinary Committee**  
November 26, 2013

Reneta D. Lansiquot, Founding Chair  
David B. Smith, Secretary

**Present:** Monica Berger (Webmaster), Reginald A. Blake, Gwen Cohen Brown, Candido Cabo, Aida Egues, Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar, Ezra Halleck, Laina Karthikeyan, Paul King, Jean E. Kubeck Hillstrom, Janet Liou-Mark, Sean P. MacDonald, Lauren Park, Johannah Rodgers, Olufemi Sodeinde, Selwyn A. Williams

**Absent:** Robert Leston (excused), Sheila Miller, Kara Pasner, Andleeb Zameer (excused)

**Guests:** Justin Davis, Alberto Martínez

---

Chair Reneta D. Lansiquot called the meeting to order at 1 PM

1. Minutes from October 29, 2013 meeting were approved.
2. Reneta announced that the “Interdisciplinary Committee and Course Approvals” proposal was approved by College Council on November 5, 2013.
3. Monica demonstrated Open Lab website, <http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/ids/>. We are making good progress, but there are a few pages that need to be populated with relevant information as we move forward as a committee.

Reneta reminded committee members to post interdisciplinary course ideas here:  
<http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/ids/have-an-id-course-idea/>

4. Urmi and Paul updated the committee on our recent workshops on how to transform your existing course to satisfy the interdisciplinary College Option.

A concern expressed at the first workshop, which was held before our proposal was approved, is the possible extra work for department Chairs related to scheduling and perhaps for faculty teaching interdisciplinary courses.

Candido pointed out that, in part because of our new 21-hour workload, course scheduling will likely be balanced over more than an academic year.

Reneta noted that, in the case of co-teaching, the workload should be split appropriately based on the duties of participating faculty.

The following faculty were present at the workshops:

October 31, 2013

Interdisciplinary Committee members: Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar, Paul C. King, Sean P. MacDonald, David B. Smith, Olufemi Sodeinde, and Reneta D. Lansiquot

Ralph Alcendor, Biological Sciences  
Gulgun Bayaz-Ozturk, Social Science/Economics  
Marta Effinger, African American Studies  
Ann Delilkan, Humanities  
Costas Panayotakis, Social Science/Sociology  
Christopher Swift, Humanities/Theater  
Liana Tsenov, Biological Sciences

November 8, 2013

Interdisciplinary Committee members: Paul C. King, Jean E. Kubeck Hillstrom, Sean P. MacDonald, and Reneta D. Lansiquot

Ann Leonard, Library  
Tess Tobin, Library

Friday is not an ideal day for workshops because most faculty are not on campus.

5. Selwyn discussed our joint Interdisciplinary Committee (IDC)-Undergraduate Research Committee (URC) workshop for first-year faculty scheduled for January 21, 2014. The intent of this workshop, which will likely start with a plenary roundtable, is to get a cross fertilization of ideas to orient first-year faculty regarding institutional concepts of interdisciplinary study and undergraduate research.

David provided an example of his project with Christopher entitled “Back from the Dead: An Eidophusikon for Richard III. Stage two of a multi-year interdisciplinary curriculum project” Another example of microbial analysis was offered.

The following committee members will be present at this workshop: Reginald A. Blake, Gwen Cohen Brown, Aida Egues, Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar, Paul C. King, Reneta D. Lansiquot, Robert Leston, Janet Liou-Mark, Sean P. MacDonald, and Selwyn A. Williams

Julia Jordan will handle publicizing this workshop.

6. Jean and Sean, Co-Chairs of the Existing Courses subcommittee, presented three courses for interdisciplinary course designation.

### **AFR 3000 Black New York**

Reviewer: Gwen Cohen Brown

Strengths: Although African American Studies is inherently interdisciplinary, the proposer has included several guest lecturers from different departments at the College in addition to those who will be encountered during scheduled field trips.

Weaknesses: It seems students may not have enough time to do the oral presentations. However, before the vote, she decided to remove this concern from the report.

Recommended: 16, 0, 1

Reneta reminded the committee that courses must be evaluated based on our approved definition of an interdisciplinary course at City Tech; do not reevaluate existing courses' suitability to be a course.

**ENG 1773 Weird Science: Interpreting and Redefining Humanity**

Reviewers: Jean E. Kubeck Hillstrom, Laina Karthikeyan, and Sean P. MacDonald

Strengths: numerous

This course has been offered for the past three years and adheres to the definition of an interdisciplinary course.

Weaknesses: It is only possible to have a small number of sections per semester.

Recommended: 18, 0, 0

The three reports will be merged into one report for the record.

**ECON 2505 Environmental Economics**

Reviewer: Ezra Halleck

Strengths: It is definitely a model course and could be offered as a model.

Weaknesses: A math prerequisite might help provide additional rigor, but, before the vote, he agreed to remove this concern from the report because several members pointed out that this is not the purview of this committee.

Recommended: 17, 0, 0

7. Committee members discussed the membership policy as drafted by Reneta D. Lansiquot, David B. Smith, Candido Cabo, Reginald A. Blake, and Janet Liou-Mark.

There were some concern about remote voting not being represented. The committee agreed that members should be present to be part of the discussion before a vote.

The following changes will be made to the membership policy draft: (1) explicitly note that the founding committee members comprise existing members as of the date of this meeting. Three years of initial service before the term limits start to ensure continuity; (2) at the end of these three years, one-third of the original committee will need to retire to start the term limits cycle; and (3) faculty who wish to serve will alert the Chair of the IDC. Their name will go onto a waiting list if there are no available positions. When a position opens, the first member of the list is evaluated: if there is an opening from that department, then they are offered the position. If an individual does not accept, he or she is removed from the list and the next in line is offered, until the position(s) are filled.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2 PM.