

New York City College of Technology
Interdisciplinary Committee
December 12, 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, Robert Leston, Johannah Rodgers, Andleeb Zameer

Absent: Justin Davis, Laina Karthikeyan (excused), Paul King, Jean E. Kubeck Hillstrom (excused), Sheila Miller, Kara Pasner, Janet Liou-Mark (excused), Sean P. MacDonald (excused), Lauren Park, Rebecca Shapiro (non-voting member), Olufemi Sodeinde, Selwyn A. Williams

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

1. Minutes from November 26, 2013 meeting were approved.
2. Monica demonstrated Open Lab website pages, Explore+Partner and Find Partners

David noted that we should add tags to entries so that they are more easily searched. Johannah concurred based on her experience working with Open Lab. Monica agreed to add a tag field to the form on the Explore+Partner page.

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

There was a brief discuss on interdisciplinary new course that are currently under development (Reneta and Candido; Janet, Diana, and Melanie; Urmi and Diana) as well as existing courses in the Social Sciences Department that will be proposed for interdisciplinary course designation.

Reneta noted that in order for a new course to run in the spring of 2015, it must be submitted to the Curriculum Committee by Friday, February 28, 2014. David added that meeting this deadline is possible, but it is a tight timeframe. If extremely necessary, a course could be submitted as an experimental course in order to get it to run earlier. He also noted that sections of “special topics” courses in the English Department, for example, could be “reimagined” as an interdisciplinary course. Johannah and Robert mentioned possible current courses.

3. Our three recommended courses for interdisciplinary designation were announced at the Curriculum Committee meeting on December 10, 2013.

4. Committee members discussed the revised membership policy. Johannah requested including “research day” to the examples of adequate reasons to miss an Interdisciplinary Committee (IDC) meeting. Her request led to a discussion on how to deal with members who cannot attend a meeting because of scheduling conflicts off campus. Also, the idea of an alternate representative is a possibility. However, committee members agreed that the document is clear enough as it stands and there is a provision to modify, so it should work as a start.

Reneta explained that the membership policy specifies that a member “will be reconsidered for membership on the IDC...If more than two IDC meetings are missed in a given semester.” If a faculty member is absent once or twice because of an off campus schedule conflict, then he or she should still actively participate online, for example. Candido pointed out that members of the IDC are not serving as department representatives. Ideally, as the policy states, the IDC “will be composed of faculty members interested in the development of interdisciplinary courses” from different departments and schools at the College.

Reneta will update the membership policy to ensure that this point is clear.

Approved: 10, 0, 0

<http://openlab.citytech.cuny.edu/ids/files/2013/04/Interdisciplinary-Committee-Membership-Policy.pdf>

5. We discussed our joint Interdisciplinary Committee (IDC)-Undergraduate Research Committee (URC) event scheduled for January 21, 2014.

Event goals:

- To introduce first-year faculty to the institutional framework of interdisciplinary and undergraduate research experiences at City Tech.
- To facilitate “cross-fertilization” of ideas for building interdisciplinary experiences using project-based collaborations among faculty across departments and disciplines.
- To foster awareness and utilization of institutional resources to support faculty participation in ID and UGR initiatives.

Other new faculty activities are also happening on this date.

Reggie noted that the IDC portion of the day will be from 1:15 until 2 PM.

Paul will present our definition of an interdisciplinary course and application for interdisciplinary course designation.

Reneta will briefly present her course as an example.

David will present on how to turn a project into an interdisciplinary course.

Gwen and Urmi will then talk about the SENCER (Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities) model.

Briefly present our work-in-progress website to the group.

6. Chairs of subcommittees should be prepared to explain their plans for next semester during our next meeting.
 - Reneta D. Lansiquot (Chair, New Courses subcommittee)
 - Jean E. Kubeck Hillstrom and Sean P. MacDonald (Co-Chairs, Existing Courses subcommittee)
 - Janet Liou-Mark (Chair, Course Development subcommittee)
 - Monica Berger and Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar (Co-Chair, Social Outreach subcommittee)
7. Next semester, we will meet after College Council, Tuesday at approximately 2 p.m. (i.e., January 28, February 25, March 25, April 29, and May 13)

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