**New York City College of Technology**

**Interdisciplinary Committee**

May 5, 2015

Reneta D. Lansiquot, Founding Chair

Sean P. MacDonald, Secretary

**Present**: Reneta D. Lansiquot, Sean P. MacDonald, Monica Berger, Dionne Bennett, Amanda Almond, Candido Cabo, Gwen Cohen-Brown, Ezra Halleck, Urmi Ghosh-Dastidar, Jean E. Hillstrom, Paul C. King, Janet Liou-Mark, Laureen Park, Olufemi Sodeinde,

**Absent:** Aida Egues, Johannah Rodgers

**Excused:** Reginald A. Blake, Robert Leston, Laina Karthikeyan, Rebecca Shapiro, Andleeb Zameer

1. Approval of minutes from April 14, 2015

Motion to approve minutes of April 14; Reneta; Gwen seconded. Unanimously approved

1. Jean (Co-Chair, Existing Courses subcommittee) presents courses for recommendation vote.

* **SBS 2000 Research Methods for the Behavioral and Social Sciences**Hans Tokke (additional fall evening and summer 2 sections)
* **GOV 2402 Public Policy -** Marco Castillo

Jean read Amanda’s review of the proposed Review of **SBS 2000** course as an ID section submitted by Hans Tokke (Sociology); each methodology should be presented in the perspective of the different disciplines; the proposal explicitly shows how the course would be taught from the perspective of many disciplines and perspectives. He is looking for someone in history and in the Humanities as guest lecturers and with expertise in narrative writing. The focus would be on students conducting a research project in which they look at their own neighborhoods or an urban neighborhood. The course would also cover archival research, case studies, conducting interviews and oral histories, ethnography (anthropology and sociology), how to design evaluations, management; economics, political science and History. The plan is to offer a Thursday evening section in Summer Session II.

Motion to recommend this course for ID designation: Reneta; seconded by Candido. Passed unanimously.

**GOV 2402 Public Policy**: This course has not been preliminarily reviewed, and the proposer has feedback to revise the proposal; it will be tabled for a future meeting.

1. Discuss “Renew Your Pedagogy: Reframe an Existing Course as Interdisciplinary”   
   proposal review and workshop

Reneta reported that she met with Provost August re: receipt of applications to convert an existing course to an ID course; she wants feedback on the proposals.

* Oleg Berman: Course in Science Fiction in English; wants interest in changing course to an ID course; Physics would be included.
* Biology II and History: Geoff Zylstra and Tatiana Voza have proposed. This may be problematic because Geoff will be on sabbatical next year and we want to be able to offer course in spring 2016. There are also questions of infusing Biology II with History. Jean noted the proposal is interesting; Biology has a history and an historical application. Biology II deals with evolution and reproduction and is also comparative, although the focus is on mammals. Jean believes that the proposal will not deviate from the core of what is covered in Biology II.

Paul noted it isn’t clear from the proposal how it would be different from the core of Biology II as it currently is now. He suggested we provide feedback to the proposers in the upcoming workshop so that they could tighten up the proposal and/ or we can ask for further clarification.

* Theater history course: proposed by Christopher Swift in Humanities.
* Rob MacDougal working on proposed ID for Health Care Ethics course. Topics would focus on medical informatics, electronic health information; medical and clinical use of placebos, and animal testing.

Paul indicated that he could request further info from the proposers that could be addressed at the upcoming ID workshop.

Reneta reported that we have the funds for the May 27 workshop for people to help them develop their ID course proposals.

The ESCI (formerly CMCE) course proposal on fracking is being been re-worked to have a broader scope.

Proposal to hold the ID workshop from 10 AM–1 PM on May 27; it would be held in the Faculty Commons.

1. Set dates/times for Fall 2015 meetings in the Faculty Commons.

Reneta will determine times committee members are able to meet.

Dionne reported that the ID event was successful in terms of promoting a culture of interdisciplinarity on campus. She suggested that an invited guest speaker, (i.e., faculty) for an event each semester to keep this going. She suggested that workshops or working groups would require further reflection and discussion before moving forward. Reneta noted that perhaps the Social Outreach subcommittee could be involved with this. She also wants to evaluate the courses that are already being offered, evaluate what we have been doing, what the students are getting out of these ID courses, etc. What would they like/dislike and what would they like to change, etc.?

Dionne, however, urged caution on this because if this is perceived as monitoring, it could be seen as discouraging to faculty who might want to propose courses. Reneta indicated that such a study would gain IRB approval and that assessment is a necessary component of course development.

Our focus will begin to change next semester because we will soon have the critical mass of ID courses needed.

We may meet next Tues, May 12th (Reneta will confirm).

Motion to adjourn: Reneta