

**NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**DATE:** 16 April 2013

**TO:** The Curriculum Committee

**FROM:** The Sub-Committee Chair, Jill Bouratoglou and Members, Peter Parides, Viviana Vladutescu

**SUBJECT:** Proposal- 12-28: Interdisciplinary Committee and Course Approvals

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**Submitted by:** Renata Lasquot, English Department

**Title:** Interdisciplinary Committee and Course Approvals

**Proposal Overview:** On March 5, 2013, the College Option was approved, including one interdisciplinary liberal arts and science course. It is therefore necessary to promote an interdisciplinary campus culture and to formalize the process for interdisciplinary course designation, ensuring appropriate curriculum development and governance.

Process for New Courses:

- Proposers may meet with Interdisciplinary Committee to review proposal.
- Proposers submits a “Application for Interdisciplinary Course Designation” to the Interdisciplinary Committee for review.
- Interdisciplinary Committee provides a recommendation that is attached to the proposal to be submitted to the Curriculum Committee.
- Curriculum Committee reviews, vets and votes on Proposal.

The intent of the proposed procedure is to minimize the complexity of the course approval process, particularly to avoid multiple submissions to the same committee. The Interdisciplinary Committee is charged with helping faculty design and implement interdisciplinary pedagogy, under the auspices of the Curriculum Committee in consultation with the Provost and the Associate Provost, is a recommending body to the College Council’s Curriculum Committee. To streamline such submissions, the Interdisciplinary Committee has attached relevant documents: “Criteria for an Interdisciplinary Course,” which includes the definition of interdisciplinary studies; “Application for Interdisciplinary Course Designation”; “Submitting an Interdisciplinary Course Proposal”; and “Suggestions for Reimagining a Course as Interdisciplinary.”

In order for a course to be considered an interdisciplinary at City Tech the course must be team-taught by more than one faculty member from two or more departments(or fields of study) in the College. An interdisciplinary course, by definition, has an interdisciplinary theme as its nucleus. In its essence, such a course brings the analytic methods of two or more academic disciplines to bear on a specific problem or question.

The following Learning Outcomes must be met by an Interdisciplinary Course:

- Purposefully connect and integrate across-discipline knowledge and skills to solve problems
- Synthesize and transfer knowledge across disciplinary boundaries

**Proposal Strengths:**

- Students will benefit from different exposures of similar subject matter.
- Proposals will be looked at from the Interdisciplinary Committee with final approval by the Curriculum Committee. This will provide stronger and clearer proposals.
- The Interdisciplinary Committee has created clear, simple forms and handouts to streamline the process.

**Weakness:**

- The review process by the Interdisciplinary Committee may increase the approval process on the Proposal.
- Not all sections of a course may be taught and designated as an Interdisciplinary Course.
- Members of the Interdisciplinary Committee may not be members of the Curriculum Committee.

**Sub-Committee Activities:** There was an Open Hearing on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 that was well attended. The chair of the sub-committee met with the submitter of the proposal, Prof. Lansiquot, Assistant Provost Brown and Provost August.