**New York City College of Technology**

**IDS Committee**

February 16, 2023

**Minutes, February 16, 2023**

**In Attendance:** Reneta D. Lansiquot, Sean P. MacDonald, Amanda L. Almond, Candido Cabo, Tamrah D. Cunningham, Ezra Halleck, Diana Mincyte, Laureen Park, Camille C. Phaire-Morton, Olufemi Sodeinde, Christopher Swift  
**Absent:** Wanett Clyde

**Excused:** Monica Berger, Gwen Cohen Brown, Denise Sutton, Robert Walljasper

1. Approval of minutes from November 10, 2022.

Motion to approve- Diana; 2nd – Camille; abstentions: 2

1. Volunteer needed for new Secretary

Reneta reminded the committee that we need a new secretary to take meeting minutes.

1. Ad-Hoc Course Integrity Working Group: Amanda Almond

The ID learning outcomes may be unclear in some syllabi; Amanda will follow up by email to faculty on recommendations to address these items. One SOC course (J Smith) submitted the non-ID course outline; the class is only offered as an ID class; one HIS 3208ID course section is short one guest lecture; also, an AFR course (Heritage of Imperialism) – has just two guest lecturers from City Tech and four external guests (two lectures from the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory DNA Learning Center NYC, which is located at City Tech). The committee agreed that both courses should have an additional guest lecturer from City Tech. Amanda will inform the professors.

1. Interdisciplinary & Individualized Major Programs (IMP) 2023 Conference at CUNY Graduate Center, March 15-17, Reneta D. Lansiquot, Sean P. MacDonald, Tamrah D. Cunningham:
   * Our panel on “Interdisciplinary Studies at City Tech: Courses, minors, and game-based learning” is scheduled from 4:15-5:15 pm on Thursday, March 16. The theme of this year’s national conference is “The Future of Interdisciplinary and Individualized Studies.”
2. Meeting with Provost on December 8, 2022 and subsequent emails: Amanda Almond and Sean P. MacDonald
   * Middle States ID course evaluation
   * Compensation for guest lecturers
   * Outside guest lecturers
   * Provost Brown’s request to attend our next committee meeting

Reneta noted that she was not invited to this meeting. There were several subsequent emails back and forth between the Provost and Amanda following this meeting on these issues:

Middle States ID course evaluation for ID courses: Middle States evaluation occurs every ten years. Amanda suggested that we can identify ID learning objectives and choose which of these objectives we want to assess and ask faculty members teaching the courses to provide syllabi that illustrate these (our first two objectives) and a sample assignment that maps onto that objective. Reneta pointed out that we should choose the first two learning outcomes because these are required. We need to identify which courses and objectives we want to sample. Amanda will coordinate with Gulgun on assessment process and logistics. How many courses do we need to include? Amanda will follow up on this question. Candido asked why these courses wouldn’t be assessed by the departments in which they are housed, since departments are generally responsible for assessment. We will follow up on this question also. Reneta suggested that we could identify a few social science courses, but we need clarification about the number of courses and the timeline.

Compensation for guest lectures: Sean summarized that the Provost stated that guest lectures will be compensated at the substitute teaching rate rather than through course release; also, those who complete fewer than 6 guest lectures during a semester have not been compensated and they will now be. This new procedure will begin in Summer 2023. Reneta raised the question as to whether the first guest lecture would be compensated and pointed out that a guest lecturer is not a substitute teacher for a class. As ID courses are team-taught, and guest lecturers are one way to fulfill our team-teaching requirement, there is interaction between the guest lecturer and the instructor, as well as the guest lecturer and the students during the session, for example, during prep, responding to discussion board posts, grading assignments. Sean pointed out that, in terms of timing, it makes the most sense for compensation to be made at the end of the semester, rather than submitting hours for each guest lecture during the semester, which would be easier for record keeping. Diana pointed out that the focus should really be on the value of our teaching. At the same time, however, we also cannot convey the message that we will do additional work for nothing (Candido).

In terms of a substitute lecture, is there a threshold we must meet? How is the first guest lecture compensated? Laureen pointed out that some guest lecturers use recorded lectures instead of live lectures. How will this factor into compensation? Reneta noted that there should be some kind of meaningful interaction between the guest lecturer and the class. Otherwise, what are they getting compensated for? This does not fulfill our team-teaching requirement.

Outside guest lectures: This proposal has been raised repeatedly since the College-wide Interdisciplinary Committee’s beginning in 2013. Guest lecturers should be from different departments, or in the case of multidisciplinary departments, from different disciplines within the department. Reneta noted that this question was resolved at the beginning and is documented in publications. Why is this idea being raised again? Amanda summarized the Provost’s argument that the ID requirement of 20% is too restrictive, but we have never had problems fulfilling this threshold; we have no history of problems meeting this goal, so the motive here is not clear. Is the issue that the administration no longer wants this model? There really is no problem at this point of not having enough ID courses and sufficient guest lecturers. At the same time, there has never been an issue with inviting additional guest lecturers from outside City Tech. Our guest lectures are not inter-professional – they are interdisciplinary, helping students synthesize links between disciplines, so external guest lecturers are in addition to - not instead of – guest lecturers from other disciplines.

We have also never been asked which courses constitute e-permits, and we have never recommended an e-permit for an ID course at another campus. Also, around 2015, there was a question from the previous provost about the School of Professional Studies (SPS) and issuing e-permits for students to take an ID course at the SPS whenever they couldn’t take the course at City Tech.

Chris pointed out that this is likely a budgetary issue and attempts to save money. However, we cannot move to a practice where we are relying on free external guest lecturers. This is not sustainable and we should not become dependent upon such a model as circumstances could change.

Furthermore, external guest lecturers and field trips do not make a course interdisciplinary.

Reneta asked whether this is a grant issue related to recent grant recipients who proposed ID courses as part of the grant not being aware of the definition of ID.

Ahead of this meeting, Imelda confirmed Provost Brown will attend our next meeting.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, March 16, club hour via Zoom

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Spring 2023 ID Committee Monthly Meetings**

April 20, May 8 (tentative)