

IPAC Activity Description

Name of Activity

IDX Course Governance

Contributor

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Brief Description of the Activity

Some time and energy will be required this academic year (2012-2013) to work with local campus governance to put courses with an interdisciplinary label, IDX, on the books. Initially, 4 new "template" courses will be proposed with an IDX label: IDX 390 and IDX490, both of which will be "Selected Topics" courses, and IDX399 and IDX499 which will be "Indendents Study" courses. One extant course will be relabeled: CAS 444 "Semiotics" will be renamed IDX 444 "Semiotics". One new IDX course with the title "Digital Humanities" (or something quite like it) will be introduced. At some point in time, an IPAC Curriculum Committee will be formed from a subset of the IPAC Advisory Board to work with individuals on campus who would like to propose new IDX courses.

Interdisciplinary Nature of the Activity

There are INTERDISCIPLINARY courses that do not rightly, for either political or purely conceptual reasons, properly belong to any course sponsoring entity on campus. Most interdisciplinary courses, e.g., Cog courses and Lin courses, will be labelled with a non-IDX number. But it is of real importance that round (interdisciplinary) courses not be forced into square (disciplinary) holes simply for clerical or other non-pedagogical purposes. It is imperative that course content not be skewed, even at a subconscious level, by bearing a label that does not reasonably apply. It is in the best interest of students who are interested in pursuing graduate education in an interdisciplinary field to be recognized for the interdisciplinary work that they have engaged in at the undergraduate level. It is means something for faculty who wish to emphasize the interdisciplinary nature of their teaching and research to have a proper curricular venue in which to work.

Relationship to Interdisciplinarity at Oswego

SUNY Oswego has for more than a decade emphasized its embrace of interdisciplinarity. The idea of providing an interdisciplinary label to inherently

interdisciplinary courses that ought not to be tagged with disciplinary or other labels will add integrity to the interdisciplinary culture that we at Oswego are striving to cultivate.

IPAC Support

The Conference Room will be used for the IPAC Curriculum Committee meetings.

The IPAC secretary will work with the IPAC Curriculum Committee and the IPAC Advisory Board on the shepharding of curricular matters through campus governance.

Relevant Dates

Forever, but with considerable up-front activity during the 2012-2013 academic year.