

Creating of an Interdisciplinary Studies (IDS) Department

Proposal

We propose to create an interdisciplinary studies department that will house some of our interdisciplinary programs. Some interdisciplinary programs are closed tied to another academic department, for example Cognitive Science to Computer Science, and programs that wish to remain with their home department can certainly continue there, though Interdisciplinary Studies would still work to promote those programs.

Background:

The idea for the Interdisciplinary Studies and Activities Center (IPAC) came about in the late 1990s as a result of a faculty Conversations in the Discipline grant and growing student and faculty interest in interdisciplinary programs on campus. IPAC's mission "is to nurture the development of an interdisciplinary community among the loose-knit collection of interdisciplinary programs on campus, a community through which a vital, vibrant interdisciplinary culture will emerge to impact the broader academic community in powerful, positive ways. More pragmatically, the mission of the center is to support existing and develop new interdisciplinary programs, courses, and projects."

Programs

The Interdisciplinary Studies Department (IDS) will house the Gender & Women's Studies (GWS) major and minor, Global & International Studies (GLS) major and minor, Integrative Professional Studies (IPS) BA and BS programs, the Sustainability Studies (SUS) major (in-development) and minor, the African/African-American Studies minor, Latino/a/x American Studies minor, the Native American Studies Minor, the Peace and Conflict Studies minor. There are some other programs in development that may also fit, like a graduate certificate and microcredential on Technology and Social Justice.

Personnel and Retention

Faculty who are current program directors will remain in their respective home departments. However, having a department would allow faculty lines to be housed within IDS. Personnel committees for faculty housed in IDS would be comprised of members of the advisory board for the major and/or from other IDS program directors. An example of this already exists. Expectations will be clearly provided to the faculty member at the time of hire.

IPAC currently reports directly to Provost, which was initially set up to establish its commitment to interdisciplinary and to be able to interact with each of the schools/colleges. As an academic department, it would move to the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS). Most of the academic programs' courses are in CLAS, and Dean Croyle supports the inclusion of Interdisciplinary Studies in CLAS.

Budget

IPAC has a very small OTPS budget line. GWS and GLS program budget lines should be included under IDS department. If they cannot keep the separate budget lines with distinct budget numbers, the program directors, in conjunction with the administrative assistant, will keep an excel ledger to account for their expenditures. IFR and Foundation accounts should remain tied to each academic program.

Interdisciplinary Studies Organizational Chart

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences



Chair: Lisa Glidden (POL)

Major programs:

- American Studies (Doug Guerra—operates out of ENG)
- Gender and Women's Studies (Joanna Goplen—operates out of IDS)
- Global and International Studies (Lisa Glidden—operates out of IDS)
- Integrative Professional Studies (Sandy Bargainnier—to operate out of IDS and Extended Learning)
- Linguistics (Bruce Peng—operates out of C&I)

Minor programs:

- African/African-American Studies Minor (Ken Marshall HIS)
- American Studies (Doug Guerra ENG)
- Gender and Women's Studies (Joanna Goplen IDS)
- Global and International Studies (Lisa Glidden IDS)
- Native American Studies Minor (Michael Channess ANT)
- Latino/a/Latin American Studies (Rosie Hurtado ENG)
- Peace and Conflict Studies Minor (Uyi Usuanalele HIS)
- Sustainability Studies Minor (Glenn Graham ECO)