

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE  
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 7616S  
Date of Senate Approval 04/14/16

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

**APC Document 64 (IST):**

**Add new course, IST 200, Ideas to Action**

**Effective Date: Fall 2016**

**1. Add:** On page 175, new course in Interdisciplinary Studies: **IST 200, Ideas to Action:**

**200 Ideas to Action (2)**

Students learn how to turn their ideas into plans that can become reality. They will be introduced to entrepreneurship, do a critical analysis of problems and needs, and work in interdisciplinary teams to design ventures. Students will form teams based on their interests, and will receive mentoring from professional entrepreneurs and other community leaders as they create their proposals with a market analysis, impact statement and financials. Students will present their work on-campus and have the opportunity to take their plans to the next level by participating in off-campus events. Fall.

**Impact:** There will be no additional faculty resources needed for these changes. The course is currently being taught as IST Special Topics by a tenure-track member of the faculty; however, it's designed to be taught by multiple members of the faculty.

**Rationale:** Throughout the liberal arts education at UNC Asheville, students are regularly encouraged to generate and develop creative ideas. This course supports students who want to take their ideas to the next level by working in interdisciplinary teams with mentoring from professional entrepreneurs and other community leaders. The iterative approach to plan development encourages research in academic and community sources and provides opportunities for frequent presentations to a variety of audiences in order to receive a diversity of feedback. This process helps teams analyze and define social and environmental problems, validate potential solutions, measure impact, quantitatively support conclusions, and defend their plans. The course has no prerequisites, making it available to students in all majors, thereby supporting an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving.