

[Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning \(CETL\)](#)

Interdisciplinary Faculty Learning Community Call for Participants

Facilitators: Dr. Oana Popescu Sandu (LA) and Dr. Elizabeth Bonham (NHP)

“Crossing boundaries is a defining
characteristic of our age”
(Julie Thompson Klein)

Introduction

Real life problems are not confined to single disciplines, they are complex occurrences that require communication between, and access to, knowledge from multiple disciplines. To prepare students to engage in such communication, faculty need to become facilitators that model interdisciplinary dialogue, at the level of course design and delivery, through collaboration with other faculty, or through engaging in interdisciplinary problem-solving in their own teaching.

Taking our disciplines and pedagogies out of built in university silos to a community wide place of interprofessional and interdisciplinary practice requires mindful and caring alterations to current ways of teaching. If we are to teach students to innovate and think across pre-determined boundaries, as faculty, we need opportunities where we can safely and intentionally explore interdisciplinary approaches that reach out to a global community. We will be working along the lines of the USI strategic threads of inclusion, intentionality, and interdisciplinarity.

Goals and procedures

Proposed meetings are aimed at:

- Opening the conversation between faculty interested in interdisciplinary approaches in both research and teaching
- Initiating a long term faculty learning community on interdisciplinarity
- Creating a working framework for developing and assessing interdisciplinary pedagogy and research at USI.

The discussions are open to USI faculty on a voluntary basis, using the [Faculty Learning Community](#) (FLC) model. The group will be comprised of 8-12 people and meet monthly during the fall semester, on selected Tuesdays (9/20, 10/25, 11/15, 12/13), from 12.00-1.15 pm. The in person meetings will be augmented by focused online discussions aimed at maintaining a continued engagement with the group. Participants are request to commit to participating in at least 75% of the meetings and online activities.

Interested faculty are asked to send a brief paragraph by email to Dr. Oana Popescu-Sandu at opopescusa@usi.edu by **Friday, September 2**, introducing themselves and stating their interest in and expectations for the group.