The IDOC is responsible for developing and carrying out the policies and guidelines of the Interdisciplinary Doctorate Program, reviewing candidates for admission to the program, and monitoring progress of the students in the program.

Prof. Susan Ernst served as IDOC chair from 2012 until her retirement at the end of Fall 2017. The committee is very grateful for her outstanding service. Under her leadership, IDOC has worked efficiently and has introduced a new two-step application process, which streamlined the initial application and review of candidates, and improved the procedures to engage prospective members of the PhD advising committee. In Spring 2018, two new IDOC members were recruited (Prof. Sarah Pinto and Prof. Colin Orians), and the Dean of Graduate Education of the School of Engineering was added to the Committee as an ex-officio member.

Presently, there are four continuing students in the program, who are in their first, second, third, and fourth year, respectively. Their research areas are telehealth care strategies to support caregivers of patients with dementia, designing and manufacturing materials according to environmental and aesthetic considerations, comparative literature, and transboundary water cooperation. All students are making good progress.

Of the three Step 1 applications that were submitted this year, two were withdrawn by the applicants, and one was approved by IDOC to move on to Step 2. This application is still active.

During the next Academic Year, there is a plan to engage IDOC in discussions to develop strategies aimed at increasing the visibility of the program within and outside of Tufts, enhancing its impact on interdisciplinary research activities at Tufts, and making it more attractive to prospective applicants.

The committee interim chair would like to thank all committee members for their collegiality and hard work, with special thanks to Susan Ernst (and best wishes for her retirement years), Steve Marrone, and Shelly Krimsy for their devoted service to the committee over the years.

For the committee,

Sergio Fantini, Professor, Dept. of Biomedical Engineering (Interim Chair)

2017-2018 IDOC Members:
Susan Ernst, Professor, Dept. of Biology (Chair) (Fall 2017)
Sheldon Krimsy, Professor, Dept. of Urban & Environmental Policy & Planning
Steven Marrone, Professor, Dept. of History
Colin Orians, Professor, Dept. of Biology (Spring 2018)
Sarah Pinto, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Anthropology (Spring 2018)
Karen Panetta, Dean of Graduate Education, School of Engineering (ex officio) (Spring 2018)
Robert Cook, Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (ex officio)