

## **Orientation Committee**

### **Mission:**

Orientation welcomes and prepares new members to integrate into, actively engage in, and meaningfully contribute to the IRP academic peer-learning and social community.

### **Activities:**

The facilitators meet and develop the agenda for a full-day, pre-semester orientation session for new IRP members. They develop a resource packet with information about IRP programs that is distributed to each new member. After approval of the agenda and support materials by the Director, the facilitators schedule the session and contact the new members.

Topics include in the full-day, pre-semester orientation session include a brief history of the IRP and The New School, an overview of study group dynamics, a discussion of the important roles that the Advisory Board and committees play in developing and maintaining a successful academic peer-learning and social community, and an introduction to the Zine and electronic library resources.

A workshop utilizing peer-learning prepares new members for active engagement in study groups. New members are exposed to the broad range of opportunities for involvement in the IRP and learn about the responsibility of each member to actively participate in order for the IRP to succeed as a peer-learning community. Each incoming group of new members is encouraged to form a support group that will meet regularly.

### **Facilitator - Skills and Experience:**

The facilitator(s) should be an IRP member for at least three years and an active volunteer in committee work or other substantial projects. Preference will be given to members with strong interpersonal skills who have coordinated at least one study group and who have successfully employed peer-learning strategies.

### **Facilitator Selection Process:**

Facilitators have a four-year term and are chosen by the Advisory Board Executive Committee in consultation with the Director. Announcements of openings for facilitators, along with instructions on how to apply, are posted in the IRP Observer and on the IRPZine.