**ASCC Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel**

Approved Minutes

Wednesday, November 10th, 2021 1:00PM – 2:30PM

CarmenZoom

**Attendees**: Barker, Breitenberger, Cody, Craigmile, Dinan, Ottesen, Panero, Steele

1. Approval of 10-27-21 minutes
   * Craigmile, Ottesen; unanimously approved
2. EEOB 5505 (new course; cross-listed with Anthropology 5505)
   * Comment: The Panel is enthusiastic about this course, and requests that the department widely advertise the course throughout the college and university when it is offered.
   * Comment: The NMS Panel discussed concerns about the Addenda (syllabus, pg. 3 under “How this Course is Organized-Pace of course activities) and their due date of midnight on Friday after having class on Thursday afternoon. The concerns weighed were whether or not the time delay between class and the due date constituted too much between the material and the reflection (thereby not prompting immediate impressions) or too little time to allow students to balance their weekly workload.
   * Comment: The Panel noted some difficulty in differentiating which assignments/topics corresponded with Weeks 2-14 in the course schedule (syllabus, pg. 7-9 under “Course Schedule”). They kindly suggest that the department continue the visual layout (lines of delineation) from Week 1 throughout the course schedule to provide more clarity for students.
   * Comment: The Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel concurs with the contingencies, recommendations, and comments of the SBS Panel and entrusts the review of the course after the department has addressed the contingencies to SBS Panel Chair
   * *Recommendation: The Panel noticed that the reading load does not seem to be balanced throughout the course. For example, in weeks 6-9 (syllabus, pg. 7-8 under “Course Schedule”) there are 3-4 articles assigned per week, while in weeks 10-12 there are only 1-2 articles assigned per week. The Panel asks that the department consider distributing the student workload more evenly across the schedule.*
   * *Recommendation: The Panel commends the department on their flexibility regarding accepting late assignments but recommends that the department consider including a final deadline to turn in all assignments, such as the end of the semester.*
   * Barker, Breitenberger; unanimously approved with two *recommendations* (in italics above,) and four comments.
3. EEOB 5510 (new course; cross-listed with Anthropology 5510)
   * The Panel is enthusiastic about this course, and requests that the department widely advertise the course throughout the college and university when it is offered.
   * The Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel concurs with the contingencies, recommendations, and comments of the SBS Panel.
   * The Panel suggests re-visiting the absence policy (syllabus pg. 6 under “Absence Policy”) and including language about excused vs. unexcused absences. The Panel also recommends referring students to Student Advocacy or providing other guidance regarding what a student should do if they have a legitimate reason for more than two absences.
   * The Panel requests that the department be mindful about making the course materials and assignments relevant and accessible to all students, particularly given the nature of the course design in which speakers may vary from one offering to another. They note that, by design, this course will likely have a diverse student population of undergraduate and graduate students from many different disciplines, each of whom will have different areas and levels of expertise.
   * The Panel asks that department clarify the following regarding the team/group project (syllabus pg. 6 under “Collaboration Plan”):
     + How will teams be assigned?
     + How will the work of the team be evaluated?
     + Will all members of the same team receive the same grade, or will there be individual grades within the group project?
   * The Panel expressed confusion about the nature of the teams, the assignments and how students will be assessed. The Panel believes that these concerns are linked to the concerns of the SBS Panel, and as such, they would like to review the course again after the contingencies of the SBS Panel have been met.
   * No Vote