

ASCC Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee

Approved Minutes

Thursday, September 11th, 2025

1:30PM – 3:00PM

CarmenZoom

Attendees: Barker, Bitters, Carlson, Hadad, Heckler, Lee, Neff, Vankeerbergen

Agenda

1. Approval of 08-28-2025 minutes
 - a. Barker, Lee; unanimously approved.
2. Physics 1110 - existing course requesting a change from 3 CH to 4 CH and GEN Foundation: Natural Science
 - a. Comment: The Subcommittee notes that since the course is becoming a 4-credit Natural Science Foundation, it may need to be renumbered. The Arts and Sciences Curriculum and Assessment Services Office is consulting with the Registrar and will update the department if this change is required.
 - b. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee requests that the syllabus specify the length and format of the quizzes along with details on the homework, final exam option, and length of the assigned readings per session. This information is important for assessing workload and helps students set expectations for the course. The Subcommittee notes that Physics 2110 includes a model description of major assignments with these details.
 - c. **Contingency:** As of August 29th, 2025, all syllabi must have either a link to the statements below **or** these statements written out in their entirety within the syllabus (the statement(s) in **bold** below are missing or outdated in the current syllabus). Syllabi should link to the Office of Undergraduate Education's [Syllabus Policies & Statements webpage](#) and/or copy-and-paste the statements from the Office of Undergraduate Education's website.
 - i. Academic Misconduct
 - ii. Student Life - Disability Services (p. 4)**
 - iii. Religious Accommodations (p. 5)**
 - iv. Intellectual Diversity**

Instructors are welcome to include any other standard and/or recommended syllabus statements found on the Office of Undergraduate Education's webpage which they deem relevant for their course. Please also refer to this page to ensure that the Diversity and Title IX statements (now combined into the statement on “Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct”) and Mental Health statement on p. 5 of the syllabus are current and accurate.

- d. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends including information in the syllabus on technology requirements for the course. Since the labs require students to view videos and extract data, the Subcommittee recommends clarification on whether specific software or tools are required for video analysis, modeling, or data processing.
 - e. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends clarifying how group work will be graded in labs, along with whether lab groups will change with each lab or remain consistent.
 - f. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends specifying a timeline for students to choose between the final exam and project options. Given that the project requires multiple stages, clear deadlines and expectations for time management should be communicated to students.
 - g. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends removing reference to the OSU standard grading scale from the syllabus (p. 2), as OSU does not have a standardized grading scale and instructors are free to select a grading scheme which best suits the needs of their course.
 - h. Barker, Lee; approved with one abstention with one comment, two contingencies, and four recommendations
3. Physics 2110 – new course requesting GEN Theme: Number, Nature, Mind and 4 CH High-Impact Practice: Research and Creative Inquiry
- a. The Subcommittee requests that the department clarify the lab contact hours. Under ODHE guidelines, one credit hour represents approximately 2,250 minutes of total work, combining instructional time and out-of-class time. For laboratory courses, this typically translates to more in-class time because it is assumed that students complete less out-of-class work. As currently structured, the course would need to total approximately 6 contact hours (e.g., 4 hours of lab and 2 hours of lecture). If the lab is limited to 2 hours, the Subcommittee requests clarification of how out-of-class assignments will be used to compensate for the reduced contact time. Please clarify the credit-hour breakdown to address this concern and, if necessary, adjust the lab length or assignment structure. Alternatively, the Subcommittee suggests considering a lecture/recitation model to bring the current structure of the course into alignment with credit hour expectations.
 - b. The Subcommittee advises the department to consider how this course would be offered on the Columbus campus, including whether adjustments such as time-slot changes for the sessions would be needed.
 - c. The Subcommittee notes that automatically failing the course solely for not completing the oral presentation or hand in the final report may be overly punitive (syllabus p. 19). They recommend instead increasing the weight of

the presentation and report so that a student's grade is significantly impacting if the assignment is not completed, without resulting in an automatic failure.

- d. The Subcommittee recommends removing reference to the OSU standard grading scale from the syllabus (p. 14), as OSU does not have a standardized grading scale and instructors are free to select a grading scheme which best suits the needs of their course.
- e. As of August 29th, 2025, all syllabi must have either a link to the statements below **or** these statements written out in their entirety within the syllabus (the statement(s) in **bold** below are missing or outdated in the current syllabus). Syllabi should link to the Office of Undergraduate Education's [Syllabus Policies & Statements webpage](#) and/or copy-and-paste the statements from the Office of Undergraduate Education's website.
 - i. Academic Misconduct
 - ii. Student Life - Disability Services
 - iii. Religious Accommodations
 - iv. Intellectual Diversity**

Instructors are welcome to include any other standard and/or recommended syllabus statements found on the Office of Undergraduate Education's webpage which they deem relevant for their course. Please also refer to this page to ensure that the Diversity and Title IX statements (now combined into the statement on "Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct") on pp. 20-21 of the syllabus and any other statements are current and accurate.

- f. The Subcommittee notes the inclusion of a land acknowledgment in the syllabus (p. 21). As of June 27th, 2025, land acknowledgments are no longer permissible on official university documents. The Subcommittee asks that the course instructor(s) consult with their TIU head regarding whether or not this statement may be included within their syllabus.
 - g. Declined to vote.
4. Biology 4210 – new course requesting GEN Theme: Lived Environments and 4 CH High-Impact Practice: Research and Creative Inquiry (return)
- a. **Contingency:** The Subcommittee appreciates the detailed response the CLSE provided with the resubmission of the syllabus. They note that the proposal indicates that the instructor will serve as the corresponding author for students' papers and will help to ensure publication. The Subcommittee continues to find this expectation unrealistic. For example, future instructors who teach the course may not wish to assume this responsibility. The Subcommittee requests that the unit reframe the goal of the assignment so that the emphasis is on learning the publication process rather than publication itself as the final outcome.

b. Carlson, Heckler; unanimously approved with **one contingency**.