

ASCC Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee

Tuesday, January 13th, 2026

1:30PM – 3:00PM

CarmenZoom

Attendees: Barker, Carlson, Dinan, Hadad, Heckler, Lee, Neff, Steele, Wade

Agenda

1. Approval of 12-11-2025 Minutes
 - a. Heckler, Lee; approved with one abstention.
2. Biology 3120 – new course
 - a. **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these statements written out in their entirety within the syllabus (the statement(s) in **bold** below are missing or outdated in the current syllabi). 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** – please ensure the office email and Policy: Religious Holidays, Holy Days and Observances function as hyperlinks. (p. 6)
 - iv. **Intellectual Diversity**Instructors are welcome to include any standard and/or recommended syllabus statements found on the [Office of Undergraduate Education's webpage](#) which they deem relevant for their course. Please refer to this page to ensure that the statements on Diversity and Title IX (now to be replaced with the statement on “Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct”) on p. 8 of the syllabus and all other statements are current and accurate.
 - b. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends rewording or expanding the course description in curriculum.osu.edu and the syllabus to more clearly convey the purpose and scope of the course.
 - c. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that the course includes a substantial amount of group work. The Subcommittee encourages consideration of additional individual assessment components (such as individual lab reports) to complement the existing group-based assignments and lab skills assessments.

- d. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends that the instructor consider how individual accountability within group work will be ensured. As currently structured, uneven participation may only become evident during lab skills assessments. The Subcommittee recommends incorporating a mechanism such as partner feedback to ensure that all group members are actively contributing.
 - e. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that the final writing assignment could potentially be completed using AI tools. The Subcommittee recommends including a statement on the use of AI in the course as well as incorporating opportunities for instructor check-ins or other measures to ensure that students can articulate their work.
 - f. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee recommends providing additional detail regarding the in-class time allotted for preparing video submissions for the lab skills assessments, including clarification on how much time students will have to complete this work (syllabus p. 3).
 - g. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee suggests that the unit rephrase the statement on “Credit Hours and Work Expectations” (syllabus, p. 1), as its current language (e.g., references to “direct instruction”) is not well suited to describing an in-person course. The Subcommittee recommends instead emphasizing students’ overall engagement per week.
 - h. *Recommendation:* The Subcommittee notes that page 4 of the syllabus states that all make-up work must be completed by the end of the course in week 7. While the Subcommittee recognizes that this course may be offered in a seven-week session, they recommend ensuring that this language is updated as appropriate for the full 14-week session for which this syllabus was prepared.
 - i. Lee, Carlson; unanimously approved with **one contingency** and seven *recommendations*.
3. Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology 3610 – new course (return)
- a. Comment: The Subcommittee notes that some of the course content in the calendar may present accessibility challenges (e.g., links to websites and YouTube videos in the course calendar). Beginning in April 2026, [ADA digital accessibility requirements for OSU](#) as a public institution will be significantly expanded. The Subcommittee encourages the departments to be mindful of these forthcoming requirements and recommends consulting with the college’s accessibility coordinator.

- b. *Recommendation*: The Subcommittee recommends that the department include in the Religious Accommodations statement (syllabus p. 7) a *link* to the Civil Rights Compliance Office email address. The statement, including the required links, is available in an easy-to-copy/paste on the Office of Undergraduate Education's website.
 - c. Barker, Lee; unanimously approved with one comment and *one recommendation*.
- 4. Astronomy 2250 – new course
 - a. **Contingency**: The Subcommittee notes that the syllabus includes a link to the required University policies and statements. As such, the Subcommittee requests that the department remove the shortened versions of these statements from the syllabus (p. 12). If the department wishes to include the statements directly in the syllabus, they must be included in their full, official form.
 - b. *Recommendation*: Given the focus of the course, the Subcommittee recommends including a statement in the syllabus addressing policies on the use of AI in the course.
 - c. Carlson, Heckler; unanimously approved with **one contingency** and *one recommendation*.
- 5. Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology 7010 – new course (return)
 - a. The Subcommittee recognizes that this submission represents a revised proposal; however, they request a brief cover letter or response document outlining how the department addressed the Subcommittee's prior feedback. This response should indicate where changes were made in the syllabus and provide brief explanations for any feedback items that were not addressed. While the Subcommittee notes that some prior concerns appear to have been resolved, the absence of a response document makes it difficult to assess how the department engaged with the prior feedback. Accordingly, the Subcommittee requests that the department revisit the prior feedback and resubmit the proposal with a cover letter and revised materials.
 - b. Declined to vote.
- 6. Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology 7020 – new course (return)
 - a. The Subcommittee recognizes that this submission represents a revised proposal; however, they request a brief cover letter or response document outlining how the department addressed the Subcommittee's prior feedback. This response should indicate where changes were made in the syllabus and provide brief explanations for any feedback items that

were not addressed. While the Subcommittee notes that some prior concerns appear to have been resolved, the absence of a response document makes it difficult to assess how the department engaged with the prior feedback. Accordingly, the Subcommittee requests that the department revisit the prior feedback and resubmit the proposal with a cover letter and revised materials.

- b. Declined to vote.