

**From:** [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#)  
**To:** [Panero, Wendy](#)  
**Cc:** [Daniels, Charles](#); [Haddad, Deborah](#)  
**Subject:** Earth Sciences 8870 & 2204  
**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 10:16:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear Wendy,

On Thursday, April 5, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reconsidered a request to create new course Earth Sciences 8870. The Panel also reviewed a request to offer Earth Sciences 2204 (an existing course with GE Natural Science-Physical Science) in 100% distance learning format.

Please find below the feedback of the Panel:

- 1) Earth Sciences 8870: unanimously approved
- 2) Earth Sciences 2204: unanimously approved with several comments
  - P. 5: Student participation requirements: There is a potential discrepancy between logging in at least once a week & expectation to post at least 4 times/week in discussion forums.
  - Some boilerplate statements have been included in the online syllabus but may not be relevant to the course at hand: e.g.
    - P. 7: Is trigger warning necessary? That is, is this course about “Exploring Water Issues” likely to include “descriptions of and/or scenes depicting acts of violence, acts of war, or sexual violence and its aftermath”?
    - P. 8: “Your mental health statement”: Encourages students to contact the College of Pharmacy Office of Students Services. This must be a cut-paste oversight as ASC departments would never refer students to an office of student services in another college. The paragraph also refers to “the quarter.” If the faculty member wishes to include a mental health statement, request to use the one approved by ASC: <https://ascas.osu.edu/curriculum/asc-syllabus-elements>
  - P. 8: Student Service Center has been renamed Buckeylink. The URL is <https://buckeylink.osu.edu/>
  - GE assessment plan has considerable limitations: e.g,
    - It seems to be based on an old quarter plan and report (for another course?):
      - The “GEC” has not been used since quarters. References should be made to the “GE.”
      - It is not clear why the title refers to a “report” since this is not a report that summarizes assessment practices as implemented over a certain length of time.
      - The abstract refers to “methods for assessing the lab sections.” However, Earth Sciences 2204 is not a lab course.
      - Part III refers to the Fall “Quarter” and “winter” 2019. Neither terms are used under semesters.

- o Appendix B with embedded test questions: Some of the questions appear to have a limited connection or no connection at all with the expected learning outcomes. This is most obvious for ELO 2, which incidentally is misquoted on that page. (ELO 2 should be “Students understand key events in the development of science and recognize that science is an evolving body of knowledge” [not “Students learn key events in the history of science.”]) More generally, the sole use of specific multiple choice questions to assess broad GE expected learning outcomes is not recommended.

The Panel is concerned that under the new General Education program, the current plan would not be appropriate. That said, the Panel decides that the course request should be advanced since with the revision of the General Education program, this specific course is unlikely to be asked for a GE report before the transition to a new GE model. However, assessment will be a keystone of the new General Education program and of the courses within it.

The two course requests will now be advanced to the next step.

Should you have any questions about the feedback of the Panel, please feel free to contact Chuck Daniels (faculty Chair of the NMS Panel; cc'd on this e-mail), or me.

My best,  
Bernadette



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