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To: [Hamilton, Ian](#)
Cc: [Ottesen, Jennifer](#); [Vankeerbergen, Bernadette](#); [Hilty, Michael](#); [Steele, Rachel](#)
Subject: EEOB 3496
Date: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:29:00 PM
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Good afternoon,

On Wednesday, April 26th, the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Panel of the ASC Curriculum Committee reviewed a course proposal for Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology 3496.

The Panel unanimously approved the request with two recommendations:

1. *Recommendation:* The Panel notes that, in general, more information is needed in the syllabus regarding the course's assignments, especially the following:
 - a. The Panel recommends that the department clearly state the expected format and length of the research proposal so that students understand what is expected in this assignment.
 - b. The Panel observes that there appear to be two different types of online discussion posts for this course - one type that responds to traditional writing prompts based on the readings, and another that involves proposing questions for the guest speakers. They recommend that these two different types of posts be separately described (syllabus pg. 5 under "Descriptions of major course assignments") and clearly delineated on the course schedule (syllabus pgs. 9-12).
2. *Recommendation:* The Panel recommends that the department consider modifying the course's pre-requisites and/or the course description in the course catalog. They note that the current pre-requisites and course description indicate that a student could enroll in this course after taking an introductory biology course like Biology 1101 or 1113 or even as a 1st semester student if they have AP/IB/EM credit for a biology course. They suggest the addition of a sentence to the course description such as: "To get the most out of this course, you should be a 3rd or 4th year student who is actively engaged in planning your post-baccalaureate experience" or similar.

As a reminder, *recommendations* (in italics above) should be implemented when the course is next taught. EEOB 3496 will continue through the approval process; my office will advance the course to OAA.

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

Best,
Rachel



Rachel Steele, MA

(Pronouns: she/her/hers / Honorific: Ms.)

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