

## Brothers, Sheila C.

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**From:** Grabau, Larry J.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:17 AM  
**To:** Brothers, Sheila C.  
**Cc:** Barton, Christopher D.; Matocha, Christopher J.; Stringer, Jeffrey W.; Dunn, Jamie R.  
**Subject:** Non-standard dates for a section of NRE 320 in Summer Semester 2022

Good morning, Sheila—I hope that you are doing well. Yesterday, we reached a consensus in the Natural Resources and Environmental Science BS program as to dates for an offering of NRE 320 this coming summer. Those non-standard dates are May 9-23. Our plan is thus to begin that course (based in Robinson Forest) a full week before the official opening date for summer semester 2022. The brief rationale is that camp staff will not be available to support our students during the extended holiday weekend at the end of the month—this early start would allow us to avoid the disruption that such a stoppage would cause. The premise of this note is to address the issues identified regarding such courses. We believe that this is the best available option to serve our program’s students.

### Proposal information:

- i) Contact person for this proposal—Larry Grabau ([lgrabau@uky.edu](mailto:lgrabau@uky.edu); 859-533-6694—cell phone). Note that Chris Barton is currently managing course logistics. Chris Matocha is Chair of the NRES Steering Committee; Jeff Stringer is Chair of the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources.
- ii) The course involved is NRE 320.
- iii) Proposed start and end dates (running continuously through both weekends) are May 9 and May 23, respectively.
- iv) This is intended as a non-recurring request (that is, only for this summer—please see rationale below).
- v) Justification—our program normally offers NRE 320 twice each summer. The first offering is at Robinson Forest (in Eastern KY), and historically runs for three weeks (M-F) each May. The second offering is in Costa Rica, and typically runs for 15 straight days at the end of the summer semester. In 2021, 16 of our students took part in the Robinson Forest section; 16 other students participated in the Costa Rican section. For the summer of 2022, we are planning both a Robinson Forest section in May (15-20 students) and a Costa Rican section in late July/early August (also 15-20 students). With the relatively late standard starting date for summer semester (May 16), both our historic (that is, Monday-Friday classes, with weekends free) and our “bubble” plan from 2021 (15 consecutive days of full-day classes) would run through the Memorial Day holiday. We have learned that no camp support staff will be available from Friday (May 27) through Monday (May 30, Memorial Day). Thus, we will not be able to support our students (for example, with meals) in this remote learning environment—during that time frame. Our proposed solution would preclude this issue by starting camp early and completing the 15 days of course work before that extended holiday weekend. We ask that the Senate Council consider this request as soon as possible so that we can move forward with this one-time offering of NRE 320 on a non-standard schedule.
- vi) I have carefully reviewed the Student Load section of the current Senate Rules (section 5.2.2), and believe that this one-time offering of NRE 320 will not create any issues for students who enroll in this course.

Thank you for considering this request.

Best regards, Larry G.

C: Chris B., Chris M., Jeff, & Jamie

## Larry Grabau

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