23 February 2012

John P. Hassett
Chair, Committee on Curriculum
ESF Faculty Governance

Dear Professor Hassett:

The Natural History and Interpretation program is updating the curriculum to match current needs of the industry. This includes improving student writing skills, exposing students to and developing their proficiencies with new technologies, introducing students to changes in state and federal educational policies (e.g., Many states are creating environmental literacy plans), and exposing students through field trips to local interpretive programs.

Program revisions focus on:
1) Replacing EFB 405 and EFB 406 with EWP390. This will help improve the writing level of the students by adding a stronger writing component to the course.
2) Requiring EFB 417 will give the students skills in both face-to-face interpretive methods and non-personal interpretive methods. Both of which are common requirements of members of the interpretive field.
3) Introducing new directed electives options for existing areas and creating a new area "Recreation and Tourism Management." By adding new directed elective options it gives the students more flexibility in their schedules. The new directed elective area "Recreation and Tourism Management" will give the students information on how their interpretive programs can also impact the resource and how to better manage for this.
4) Removing EFB 215 requirement. This course is no longer being offered.
5) Updating prerequisites (EFB 312, 417, & 404) to create a logical series in the core courses for Natural History and Interpretation.
6) Updating course titles and descriptions (EFB 312 & 417) to better define the distinction between the two courses.
7) Updating the semester offered (EFB 404) to allow for better travel conditions.

Please find attached the following curriculum and course changes for the Natural History and Interpretation program:

Curriculum Changes:

- NH&I Curriculum Proposal Form
- NH&I Curriculum Changes to plan sheet
- NH&I Directed Electives list
- NH&I Typical Schedule
• Writing Center Letter of Support

Changes to current courses:

• EFB 312 (formerly 416) course proposal form & detailed course description
• EFB 512 (formerly 616) course proposal form & detailed course description
• EFB 417 course proposal form & detailed course description
• EFB 617 course proposal form & detailed course description
• EFB 404 course proposal form & detailed course description

New Course:

• EFB 560 course proposal form & detailed course description

Future changes will be submitted for EFB 418, EFB 618 as well as the addition of one to two new courses.