Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University

Constitution

Article I - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.

Section 1. Name: Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University. Once officially registered as an OSU student organization, we will apply to be a student association of the international Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) organization.

Section 2. Purpose: To facilitate conversation and collaboration among the OSU community and professionals working in the field of ecological restoration. We host invited speakers, volunteer projects, and an annual ecological restoration research conference.

Section 3. Non-Discrimination Policy:

The Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.

Voting membership is limited to currently enrolled Ohio State students. Others such as faculty, alumni, and professionals may become non-voting honorary members.

Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers

Section 1. If a member conducts themselves in such a manner deemed detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization or is in violation of the Ohio State University Student Code of Conduct, they can be removed through a majority vote of the other voting membership or unanimous vote of the officers, with the consultation of the advisor.
Section 2. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed for sufficient cause. Sufficient cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws or any conduct deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the chapter. Prior to a vote on the matter of removal of an elected officer, the chapter Executive Committee shall hold a formal hearing. The officer shall have the opportunity to personally appear at the formal hearing or to be represented by counsel. The officer may present any defense to the charges before any action is taken. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two thirds affirmative vote of the executive board.

*Article IV - Organization Leadership: Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.*

Section 1. The organization will have three officers, a president, a vice president, and a treasurer.

Section 2. Terms of office are 1 year each for the president, vice president, and treasurer. A member may only be elected for a maximum of 2 terms to any office.

Section 3. Elections for officers will be held at the end of spring semester each year for the officers to take office at the beginning of the subsequent fall semester. To be elected, a member must be nominated or self-nominate, and another member must second the nomination. Nominations and elections may be held in a formal meeting or through email.

Section 4a: The President will lead monthly member meetings, organize selection of officers for the following year, and guide annual goal development and implementation.

Section 4b. The Vice President will assist and advise the President in the duties outlined in Article III Section 4a and will also be responsible for taking notes during all organizational meetings, and disseminating those notes to all members of the organization and the advisor(s).

Section 4c. The Treasurer will seek out, apply for, and obtain funding from available sources, manage acquired funds in a responsible manner based on budgets established for appropriate expenditures, and work with the president, committees, and members to establish appropriate budgets for expenditures to meet the needs of the organization.

*Article V - Executive Committee: Size and composition of the Committee.*
Section 1. The executive committee will be composed of the officers of the organization as well as individual volunteer representatives from any standing committees defined in Article VI and any active committees not defined in Article VI.

Section 2. If more than one individual from a given committee volunteers to act on the executive committee, then the individual's committee as well as the officers will vote to determine who will act on the executive committee.

*Article VI - Standing Committees: Names, purposes, and composition.*

Standing Committees will be determined through discussion in general meetings during the first year of the organization’s existence.

*Article VII – Adviser(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria.*

Section 1. Any faculty or staff member within The Ohio State University may be the advisor to the organization. The Executive Committee is responsible for seeking out qualified individuals and asking for their service in advising the organization. If the Executive Committee deems it necessary to have more than one advisor then they may seek out multiple faculty or staff members within The Ohio State University to serve as advisors.

Section 2. The responsibilities of the advisor(s) are to act in the best interest of the organization in accordance with Article I Section 2 and to ensure that the organization is not in violation of the constitution. However, the advisor(s) may not participate directly in the organization. The advisor(s) may attend any meetings of the organization but is not required. The advisor(s) are required to meet with the Executive Committee at least twice a year: during the fall and spring semesters. If the advisor(s) would like to meet more frequently with the Executive Committee, then it is the responsibility of the advisor(s) to reach out and organize with the Executive Committee.

Section 3. If the advisor(s) feels the organization is in violation of the constitution, then the advisor(s) must schedule a meeting with the entire organization to outline the observed breaches in the constitution. If this happens more than once during the term of an officer, then the
advisor(s) may enforce a recall election to replace the officer(s). The recall election will not exclude the serving president, vice president, or treasurer should they wish to run.

Article VIII – Meetings of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.

The organization will meet monthly, according to a schedule established at the beginning of each semester.

Article IX – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.

Section 1. Proposed amendments to the constitution will be brought to the organization’s attention in writing either via email to all the members or in a meeting. A member wishing to propose an amendment to the constitution may call for a meeting and must stipulate that the meeting is being called to present a proposed amendment to the constitution. Once the proposal has been presented to the organization, there will be a 14-day waiting period before a vote is called.

Section 2. Voting to amend the constitution must occur in person, with at least 10 members, or 75% of current members attending - whichever number is less.

Section 3. In order for the amendment to pass, it must receive at least 66% support from all voting members. If the vote supports the proposal, then it will be reviewed by the executive committee and either affirmed or vetoed. If the proposal is vetoed by the executive committee, then it may be voted on a second time. At least 10 members, or 75% of current members - whichever number is less - must be present, and at least 90% of voting members must vote to support the proposal in order for it to become an amendment. If a second vote occurs and fewer than 90% of members support the proposal, then it must be re-introduced according to Article IX Section 1.

Article X – Method of Dissolution of Organization

Section 1. The organization may not be dissolved unless there are fewer than 4 active members. If there are fewer than 4 active members, the organization may face dissolution if no other members join within the academic term. If the organization has fewer than 4 members for the duration of an academic term, then it must dissolve itself.
Section 2. If the organization must be dissolved, then the assets and debts will be managed as follows. Upon dissolution, any assets must be liquidated and donated to the School of Environment and Natural Resources. Any debts must be settled by the remaining members through any means.

By-Laws

The organization’s by-laws will be written in committee meetings during the first year of the organization’s existence.