*Constitution of*

**The Ohio State University Energy and Environmental Law Society**

**Name**

The name of this special interest professional society will be the Energy and Environmental Law Society (EELS).

**Purposes**

The purposes of the Energy and Environmental Law Society shall be:

* To promote awareness of legal, policy, and regulatory issues that affect the environment, our natural resources, our energy systems, and their legal and social implications;
* To provide a forum for discussion and debate on society’s growing energy needs and the effects of that growth on the environment;
* To approach the topics of environmental and energy law in an interdisciplinary fashion, integrating members from other academic units on campus as well as the Columbus community in our discussions;
* To foster discussion on energy and environmental issues most important to our members and community through open social and service events;
* To provide learning opportunities about natural resources, traditional and alternative energies, and production and distribution processes though energy industry events and facility tours.
* To foster appreciation of nature and recognition of local environmentally sustainable businesses and organizations through fun group outings, field trips/tours, and community service events;
* To integrate the EELS into the Ohio and Columbus professional energy and environmental communities by participating in community projects and attending networking and social events;
* To provide opportunities and information for careers in energy and environmental law;
* To encourage mutually beneficial working relationships between faculty, students, and professionals in these areas of law;
* To foster discussion on the legal and social implications of environmental justice.
* To promote awareness to environmental racism through an annual event.

**Meetings**

Executive Board meetings will be held not less than twice per month. General meetings will be held not less than once per month. These meetings will address progress as a group, upcoming events, funding issues and future goals in a manner consistent with the purposes of the EELS.

**Membership**

Any member who attends two EELS events or meetings during the year shall be considered a standing member.

*Membership Selection –* general membership is open to all OSU students.

*Membership Removal –* members may be removed from the group at the discretion of the Executive Board in a unanimous vote. Removal from the group is a serious measure and only to be taken in the most extreme of circumstances involving member abuse of resources, abuse of leadership position, and/or representing the EELS in a manner that is completely contradictory to all the basic tenants and goals of the group contained herein.

*Membership Removal by Violation -* If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, violates the organization’s constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization’s advisor. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization’s advisor. In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), {00312468-1} the executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

**Executive Board Elections**

Each April, standing members of the EELS executive board will review and select the executive board, to be announced on or before May first of each year. The terms will run from May until September of each year.

The **President** will determine the events and activities to be engaged in by the members. He or she will have final say as to the use of funds, members, resources and any other activities or things the group may engage in as a collective.

The **Treasurer** will manage the bank account, fundraise, and exchange money. In cases in which any member has expended their own funds for some means that the President deems reimbursable, the treasurer will reimburse.

The **Vice President** will support the president in all duties and engage with membership to grow interest and maintain relationships with current and former members.

Standing members who wish to become candidates must submit a statement of interest for the desired position.

*Officer Removal –* officers may be removed by a 4/5ths vote of all active EELS members following a hearing to be scheduled if necessary. Serious offenses, such as those listed above, but not limited to those listed above warrant a removal hearing. Should a member feel an officer’s behavior warrants his/her removal from a leadership position, that member should contact one of the other EELS board members who is then obligated to initiate this process. The vote will commence after a hearing regarding the alleged misconduct of the officer.

**Amendments**

XI. Any proposed amendments should be presented to the organization in writing and should not be acted upon when initially introduced. Upon initial introduction, the proposed amendments should be read in the general meeting, then read again at a specified number of subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken, and should either require a two-third or three-quarter majority of voting members (a quorum being present) or a majority or two-thirds of the entire voting membership of the organization, present or not. The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

**Advisor**

Advisors of this group must be full-time members of the University faculty or Administrative & Professional staff. Responsibilities and expectations of the advisor are minimal and include answering email and providing substantive guidance and professional connections.

**Non-Discrimination Policy**

The Energy and Environmental Law Society and its members do 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.

**Sexual Misconduct Policy:**

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, \_\_\_(Organization Name)\_\_ expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf.

If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the

appropriate resources at http://titleIX.osu.edu or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX

Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

**Method of Dissolution of Organization**

Upon dissolution of the organization, Student Activities staff must be contacted to remove the organization information from its website. Any and all funds leftover should be donated to the Ohio Environmental Council.