

Evolution and Ecology Club Constitution

Article I.

Evolution and Ecology Club

Section 2: Purpose:

The purpose of Evolution and Ecology Club is to enhance the academic experience of Ohio State University students, faculty and staff with interests in evolution, ecology and related subjects. The club will provide students with opportunities for acquiring hands-on field experience; interacting with fellow undergraduates as well as graduate students and professionals; and gaining knowledge in a large breadth of subjects pertaining to evolution and ecology. The Evolution and Ecology Club also creates a social network, connecting students and faculty with similar interests and aspirations in evolution, ecology and related sciences.

Section 3: Non-discriminatory Policy:

This organization 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.

The Evolution and Ecology club expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner in accordance with our non-discrimination statement and requires that members maintain an environment free of sexual misconduct.

Article II.

Section 1: Membership Qualifications

The Evolution and Ecology Club is open to all students, faculty, staff, and alumni of The Ohio State University. Voting privileges are held by club members who are currently enrolled as undergraduates at The Ohio State University, and who have attended at least one general meeting per semester while they have been members (exclusive of the meeting at which a vote is taken). Members of the club who are graduate students, faculty, staff, or alumni, are encouraged to attend meetings and to participate in discussions, but they are not allowed to vote.

Article III.

Section 1: Description of Officers' Positions and Duties

President: The Club's President will run the general meetings, plan for and lead meetings of the Executive Committee, arrange for guests and guest speakers when appropriate, and oversee the club's social media. The President will also act as the primary liaison between the Club and The Ohio State University Office of Student Affairs. The President will also be responsible for creating new committees, with chairs being elected by the club (described in Article VI, Section I).

Vice President: The Club's Vice President will fill the President's role when they are absent, and co-organize Club meetings and events. The Vice President will also be responsible for interacting with new members and overseeing all committees (acting as a liaison to the Graduate Student Advisory Committee).

Treasurer: The Club's Treasurer will oversee the funding of special Club events, maintain the Club's financial records, and apply for grants/funds for the club. The Treasurer will also be responsible for reporting to the Club's officers and members, on a regular basis, an accounting of the Club's financial status and membership.

Secretary: The Club's Secretary will manage the Club's email communications, as well as a list of all club members. They will help to maintain the club's social media and will take photographs during club events to organize and save for future use.

Advertising/Fundraising Chair: The Club's Advertising/Fundraising Chair will prepare the flyers for each week's meeting/event. They will see to it as the flyers are hung and taken down at appropriate times and will prepare other advertising materials to promote the club. The Advertising/Fundraising Chair will also plan and organize fundraising events for the club.

Article IV.

Section 1: Executive Committee

The Club's Executive Committee will be comprised of the elected officers described in Article III.

Article V.

Section 1: Standing Committees

Graduate Student Advisory Committee: This committee will be composed of two EEOB graduate students as defined in the graduate student handbook. The Graduate Student Advisory Committee will be chosen by the same process as officer elections as described in Article VI. The role of this committee is to provide general guidance to the executive committee as needed for facilitation and execution of club functions and will encourage graduate student participation in club meetings and events. These members will not have voting privileges within

the executive committee but will be eligible to vote as general club members. At least one member of the Graduate Student Advisory Committee must act as a liaison by attending all meetings of the executive committee.

Article VI.

Section 1: Election of Officers The officers described in Section III and committee chairs will be elected in March, by a simple majority of the Club's members attending that meeting. The officers will be elected from a slate of candidates provided through open nominations. The term of each officer will be one year. A member may serve in the same office for consecutive terms, but no member may serve in the same office for more than two terms. In the event that an office is not filled during the Spring Semester election, the remaining members of the Club's Executive Committee may appoint a person to fill the office without a majority vote of the Club's members.

Section 2: Removal of Officers: Any officer may be removed from their position for failure to perform their prescribed duties or failure to comply with Ohio State University policies.

Any officer may be removed by a two-thirds vote of club members. Members must be notified of pending removal action at least one week before the voting takes place. Written charges against the officer by any member are to be presented to the other members of the Executive Board who will notify the officer in question with sufficient opportunity for that officer to answer to the charges at a meeting of the club membership.

Section 3: Selection of General Members Membership to the club is open and there is no selection process. In the interest of accessibility and promoting involvement in the Club, no membership dues will be collected for Club membership.

Section 4: Removal of General Members Removal of members will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis, but will follow the guidelines below. In cases of suspension/banishment from club meetings or events, the offending member will not be refunded any dues paid. Offending members may request a private meeting with club officers to discuss their suspension/banishment or have their suspension/banishment reviewed by the club's faculty advisor.

- **Minor offenses (disruptions of meetings, etc.):** The offending member will be warned/reminded of their behavior and possibly asked to refrain from attending the following meeting. Repetition of minor offenses may result in banishment from club meetings and events for the rest of the semester or year.
- **Major offenses (theft, harassment, etc.):** The offending member will be asked to leave the meeting (if applicable) and asked not to return for the rest of the semester or year. If needed, University officials will be notified of the member's behavior.

Section VII.

Section 1: Advisor(s)

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Article VIII.

Section 1: General Meetings

Meetings of of the Club's members will be held every other week during each academic semester (except Summer), which totals between six and eight meetings per semester. All members will be notified of meeting time and place with sufficient time prior to each meeting.

Section 2: Quorum at General Meetings

For meetings of the Club's general membership, a quorum is defined as 50% of the members who are eligible to vote.

Section 3: Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee will meet as necessary during the "off weeks" from the Club's general meetings, and otherwise communicate virtually as often as necessary to conduct the Club's business.

Section 4: Quorum at Executive Committee Meetings

For meetings of the Club's Executive Committee, the Club's President and any two additional elected officers constitute a quorum.

Article IX.

Section 1: Constitutional Amendments

Proposed amendments should be in writing, should not be acted upon but read in the general meeting in which they are proposed, should be read again at a specified number of subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. Approval should require at least two-thirds of voting members present (and to conduct any business an organization should have quorum present at a business meeting, which is at minimum 50% + 1 of total organization members). The constitution should not be amended easily or frequently.

Article X.

Section 1: Dissolution of the Club

In the event of the failure to maintain and achieve its purposes, the Club will be dissolved. Any unencumbered assets will be returned to the donors. The Club's President and Vice-President will be held responsible for paying any debts of and related closing duties for the Club.

By-Laws

Article I.

The Evolution and Ecology Club adheres to the tenant that all members will have an equal opportunity to share their opinions and to participate in the Club's decisions and activities, but the vote of the majority of the Club's members will stand for all decisions made.

Article II.

A student (undergraduate or graduate) or alumnus, or a member of the University's faculty or staff, is considered a member of the Club upon attending at least three Club meetings a semester. Club membership is not contingent on the payment of membership dues.

Article III.

All officers are elected from a slate of candidates solicited through open nominations. The terms of office begin in Spring Semester (after being elected and trained) and end in March (after new officers are elected and trained).

All officers are required to attend all general and Executive Committee meetings. Unless there are extenuating circumstances (illness, academic class, etc.), officers who are not sufficiently engaged with Club activities and events may be removed from office.

Should the President of the Club be unable to fulfill their term of office, the Vice-President will assume the President's responsibilities, and the new President will appoint a new Vice President from the Club's membership. Should any other officer be unable to fulfill their term, the President will appoint a replacement from the Club's membership.

Article IV.

The Club's advisor is expected to show interest and be involved in the Club's activities. The advisor will act as a liaison between the Club's officers and the College of Biological Sciences and Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology. All of the Club's activities must be approved by the advisor.

Article V.

Meetings of the Club's members will be announced in advance by means of e-mail, posters, and announcements in classes. Decisions on issues will be made by voice votes, although written (secret) or mail (e-mail) ballots may be used if approved by a majority of the members present at a meeting.

Amendments to the By-Laws must be presented in writing at a general meeting of the Club's membership, but an amendment can not be voted upon until the next meeting of the Club's

general membership. To approve an amendment to the By-Laws, 2/3rds of the members in attendance must vote in the affirmative.

Updated 3/7/23