

Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University

Student Organization Constitution

ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION

Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION PURPOSE

Working as a registered established OSU student organization as well as a student association of the international Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) organization, our purpose is to facilitate conversation and collaboration among the OSU community and professionals working in the field of ecological restoration. Additionally, to promote awareness of ecological restoration and related fields. To teach about and apply our knowledge and expertise to plan and execute restoration projects of our own and to assist in similar efforts within the community.

ARTICLE III. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

Section A. Harassment and Discrimination, including Sexual Misconduct

The Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University *agrees that it will not engage in sexual misconduct nor any harassment or discrimination 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 basis in accordance with the Student Organization Registration Guidelines.*

Section B. Hazing

The Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University *agrees to maintain a zero-tolerance policy for hazing, in compliance with Ohio State University and Collin's Law. All members must conduct themselves in a manner that supports an environment free from hazing. Hazing includes any activity, regardless of consent, that causes or creates a substantial risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm or humiliation to any individual as part of membership or affiliation with the student organization. If found responsible for hazing, members and/or the organization may face disciplinary actions.*

Section C. Bylaws

The Society for Ecological Restoration at The Ohio State University *retains the right to maintain separate bylaws to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies*

and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements set forth by local, state, and federal laws, The Ohio State University's regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Council on Student Affairs (CSA) Student Organization Registration Guidelines. Organizations may make amendments and changes to the bylaws without consulting the Ohio Union & Student Activities department, and changes to bylaws do not require approval. All elements of organizational bylaws shall be consistent with the organization's currently approved constitution on file and CSA constitution requirements.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

Section A. Membership Eligibility

Any currently-enrolled Ohio State students, faculty, alumni, and professionals interested in ecological restoration and furthering the mission of this organization may join. Voting membership is limited to members who have paid their annual dues.

Section B. Member Selection

To become a member interested parties simply need to take part in one club related action. This includes but is not limited to; joining us at one restoration event, restoration committee or general meeting, paying club dues, or signing up to receive SER communications from our email list or GroupMe.

Section C. Membership Timeline

Members may join at any time throughout the year, including Summer, Autumn and Spring semester, with main recruitment occurring during Autumn semester.

Section D. Member Removal

Removing non-executive members: 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 two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee with the consultation of the advisor.

ARTICLE V. ADVISOR

Section A. Advisor Duties and Responsibilities

The SER advisor has a role of supporting the club and executive board, as they are able, by providing knowledge and advice for the restoration projects and other activities of the

organization. The SER advisor may be as hands-on as they wish, but is not required to attend any meetings or events unless they wish to. The SER advisor should be available for in-person or email questions and advice, as well as completing the required trainings as needed.

Section B. Advisor Term

The SER advisor may serve as long as they are willing and actively working at Ohio State.

Section C. Advisor Selection

An advisor for SER will be chosen based on relevancy of knowledge to support SER. Any faculty at Ohio State who have a knowledge in ecosystem restoration, environment and natural resources management, forestry, ecology, or other fields deemed relevant and important to SER's cause is eligible to be the advisor for SER based on their own willingness to do so. We will reach out to faculty at Ohio State who we think would be a good fit via email. As well as, allow interested staff to reach out or to take advice from referrals by the previous advisor(s). After faculty have been selected as likely being a good fit (evaluated by executive board members), we will decide on an advisor with a vote of at least 7 members, if there is more than one candidate at the next general body meeting. After an advisor is voted on they will be informed of their new role through an email and will be updated on the student organization management website. This will confirm their role in the club.

Section D. Advisor Replacement

Advisor replacement will become necessary if the current advisor must step down or the SER leadership decides to seek a new advisor. Advisor replacement will involve contacting other prospective faculty at Ohio State who have a knowledge in ecosystem restoration, environment and natural resources management, forestry, ecology, or other fields deemed relevant and important to SER's cause. As described above in Article V. Section C., advisors selected as being a likely good fit (evaluated by executive board members), will be decided on an advisor with a simple majority vote when at least 7 members are present to participate, if there is more than one candidate at the next general body meeting. After an advisor is voted on they will be informed of their new role through an email and will be updated on the student organization management website. This will confirm their role in the club. If advisors would need to be selected at a quicker rate then we would take more active methods for seeking, such as directly speaking to professors. Additionally, selection of advisors can be voted by executive board members as a temporary role. A general body vote will be conducted at the next leadership election or earlier if deemed needed.

ARTICLE VI. ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

Section A. Officer Positions

Duties of the President: The President will be the primary committee member responsible for organizing and leading executive committee and all-member meetings, disseminating updates to the entire club via email, corresponding with the faculty advisor(s) regarding the club, ensuring that all relevant and necessary tasks are being completed by the respective responsible person(s) or parties, and generally being aware of all club activities and pertinent information.

Duties of the Treasurer: The Treasurer will be the primary committee member responsible for seeking out, applying for, and/or obtaining funds from available sources (e.g. OSU Programming and Operating Funds, membership dues, etc.), organizing fundraising endeavors, collecting and saving receipts and invoices, paying the annual fee to SER by the end of September of the respective year, coordinating and leading fundraising/finance committee meetings, managing acquired funds in a responsible manner based on budgets established for appropriate expenditures, and working with the other officers, committees, and members to establish appropriate budgets for expenditures to meet the needs of the organization (at least 2 executive officers must approve the expenditure of any club funds). If the Secretary position is unfilled, the Treasurer will take on the duties of the Secretary.

Duties of the Vice President: The Vice President will be the direct assistant to the President in their duties. Additionally, the Vice President will be responsible for managing any social media the organization may have as well as manage student outreach/recruitment and collaborations with other organizations. This officer is also responsible for the designing and facilitating orders of promotional material such as stickers, shirts, or other merchandise.

Duties of Restoration Project Managers: Restoration Project Managers will be the primary committee members responsible for managing specific restoration projects. This includes preparing for and coordinating restoration activities at project sites and restoration committee meetings. The Restoration Project Manager is also responsible for data collection and providing preliminary education to event volunteers for their site. The Restoration Project Manager will oversee experimental design in collaboration with any other Restoration Project Managers and other committee members. One Restoration Project Manager should be elected for each major restoration project site that the organization is working on.

Duties of the Secretary: The Secretary will be responsible for updating the membership email list as needed, taking notes (meeting minutes) during all meetings, booking rooms for meetings, updating and maintaining the organization of the club google drive and buckeyebox photo folder, debriefing events and creating post-event reports, organizing elections for the following year's officers, leading constitutional edits, and management of club email.

Additional potential officers: Examples of potential officers include a Restoration Project Research Manager,, Secretary, Social Media Chair, Collaborator Liaison, etc.

Additional duties of the Executive Committee as a whole: All officers will be responsible for reviewing any communication that will be posted to the entire club or general public prior to posting, attending committee and all-member meetings whenever possible, and effectively

communicating club happenings and information with each other and the members of the club. Additional duties may be decided upon and assigned by the current officers.

Section B. Officer Eligibility

Any currently enrolled Ohio State student who has been a member of SER for at least one semester is eligible to run for an officer position. Being a member again means being involved in any type of way.

Section C. Officer Selection Process

Eligible officer candidates must indicate their interest to the current executive board and prepare a short pitch to be given at an SER general body meeting during the end of the spring semester. After all officer candidates have given their pitches, all voting SER members will be given the chance to place their vote for officers for the next term. An officer candidate must receive greater than 50% of the votes if running opposed.

Section D. Officer Removal

Removal of executive board members: 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, conduct deemed detrimental to the best interests of the chapter, and failure to diligently perform the required duties of the office. 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. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee, excluding the officer in question, is necessary for removal. If a demonstrable conflict of interest exists that would prejudice the vote of another member of the Executive Committee, including any case in which the other individual is similarly charged with misconduct, that individual shall be recused from the vote following a unanimous decision by the remaining executives.

Filling vacant roles: In the case of a vacancy in any elected position resulting from either resignation or removal of the former officer, the Executive Committee may immediately appoint an interim officer to temporarily fill the vacant position. The interim officer shall have the full powers of the office, however, a special election must be held within one month of the initial vacancy of any office. The newly elected officer will serve the remainder of the previous officer's term.

ARTICLE VII. ORGANIZATION DISSOLUTION

Section A. Dissolution Requirements

Criteria for Dissolution: 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 B. Dissolution Procedures, including Assets and Debts

Steps for Dissolution: 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, and any debts must be settled by the remaining members through any means they deem appropriate.

ARTICLE VIII. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Section A. Amendment Process

Proposing amendments: 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 submit the proposed amendments for comments. The proposed amendments must be disseminated to the club through email at least one week before a formal vote can be called at the next large group meeting.

Voting on amendments: Voting to amend the constitution must occur in person, with at least 10 members, or 75% of current voting members attending - whichever number is less, with a quorum of 75% of the current voting membership.

Passing amendments: 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 at this vote, 75% of current members - whichever 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.