

FLORIDA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
STUDENT CHAPTER

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

March 1990

Revised: October 1991
April 1997
October 1997
April 1999
September 2000

Format Updated: August 2008

Article I – Name

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the Florida Water Environment Association Student Chapter, and hereinafter is referred to as the “Chapter.”
- 1.2 This organization is a student chapter of the Florida Water Environment Association, hereinafter referred to as “Association.” The Florida Water Environment Association is a Member Association of the Water Environment Federation, hereinafter referred to as “Federation.” The website for Association is <http://www.fwea.org/> and the website for Federation is <http://www.wef.org/Home>.

Article II – Purpose Statement

- 1.1 The purpose of the Chapter shall be:
 - 1.1.1 To promote student interest in the environment, and
 - 1.1.2 To provide an avenue for the exchange of ideas between students and the members of both the Florida Water Environment Association and the Water Environment Federation, and
 - 1.1.3 To adopt by reference, the objectives as stated in the Association’s Constitution and Bylaws, and
 - 1.1.4 To adopt by reference, the objective as stated in the Federation’s Constitution and Bylaws, and
 - 1.1.5 To promote an avenue for exchange of ideas between students and professionals in the water environment field.

Article III - Compliance Statement

- 1.1 Upon approval by the Center for Student Activities and Involvement, Chapter shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Chapter shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

Article IV - Non-Discrimination

- 1.1 In compliance with the University of Florida Non-Discrimination Policy (Regulation 6C1-1.006), Chapter will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act.

Article V – Membership

- 1.1 Membership in this organization is open to enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-students, spouses, faculty, and staff may be associate members; however, they may not vote or hold office. All members and associate members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

Article VI – Officers

1.1 Elected Officers

- 1.1.1 There shall be five offices and shall preside in the following order: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and BEC Representative.

1.2 Duties

1.2.1 The President shall:

- 1.2.1.1 Preside over all General Meetings.
- 1.2.1.2 Oversee all functions of the Chapter.
- 1.2.1.3 Have voice and vote in all committee decisions.
- 1.2.1.4 Be authorized to distribute funds by signature.
- 1.2.1.5 Be responsible for compiling and submitting an annual report of the Chapter's activities to the Association and the Federation's student activities committees by May 1 of each year.

1.2.2 The Vice President shall:

- 1.2.2.1 Perform all duties of the President in the absence of the President.
- 1.2.2.2 Shall be responsible for the proper functioning of all committees; however, shall not have a vote in committee decisions unless designated a member of that committee.
- 1.2.2.3 Be responsible for submitting an annual report to the President for insertion into the Chapter's annual report. The Vice President's report shall consist of the activities of the committees and shall be submitted in a timely manner.

1.2.3 The Secretary shall:

- 1.2.3.1 Keep minutes of all General Meetings and provide all members with the minutes of the General Meetings.
- 1.2.3.2 Notify all members of all General Meetings and of other business conducted by the Chapter.
- 1.2.3.3 Maintain current records of all Chapter memberships.

1.2.4 The Treasurer shall:

- 1.2.4.1 Be custodian of all Chapter funds.
- 1.2.4.2 Be authorized to distribute funds by signature.
- 1.2.4.3 Be responsible for supplying membership applications for the Federation.
- 1.2.4.4 Be responsible for submitting an annual report to the President for insertion into the Chapter's annual report. The Treasurer's report must be submitted in a timely manner.
- 1.2.4.5 Be responsible for drafting and submitting an annual report for the next school year. The budget must be included in the Treasurer's report.

1.2.5 The BEC Representative shall:

- 1.2.5.1 Represent the Chapter at all Benton Engineering Council general meetings.
- 1.2.5.2 Notify all members of the activities of the Benton Engineering Council.
- 1.2.5.3 Adhere to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Benton Engineering Council.

1.3 Board

1.3.1 The Board will:

- 1.3.1.1 Be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- 1.3.1.2 Be designed to streamline the General Meetings by discussing old and new business and establishing the agenda for the General Meeting.

1.4 Terms

- 1.4.1 The terms of the elected officers shall commence on the first day of the Fall semester.
- 1.4.2 Each officer shall serve for one calendar year.

1.5 Replacement of Elected Officers

- 1.5.1 In the event an Officer cannot complete the designated term, the Board shall:
 - 1.5.1.1 Nominate a replacement from the general membership.

- 1.5.1.2 Elect the replacement by a simple majority vote of the Board.

Article VII – Elections

- 1.1 The officers shall be elected at the Election Meeting during the course of the Spring semester.
- 1.2 Any member can nominate any other voting member, including himself or herself.
- 1.3 Nominations of officers
 - 1.3.1 Will be entertained at the Election Meeting.
 - 1.3.2 Will be determined by the Nominating Committee and by floor nominations.
- 1.4 Floor nominations
 - 1.4.1 Will be entertained at the Election Meeting.
 - 1.4.2 Shall show their willingness to serve.
- 1.5 Voting will occur by secret ballot and a simple majority vote is required to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates running and no candidate receives a majority vote, there shall be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients at the next general meeting

Article VIII – Faculty Advisor

- 1.1 The Faculty Advisor to the Chapter shall:
 - 1.1.1 Be a member in good standing with the Association.
 - 1.1.2 Be in good standing with the University.
 - 1.1.3 Be selected by the Board.
 - 1.1.4 Be nominated by the Chapter to the Association for approval.
 - 1.1.5 A new Faculty Advisor will be selected when the previous Faculty Advisor can or will no longer be able to perform his responsibilities as stated in Section 1.2 of this article.
- 1.2 The Faculty Advisor shall:
 - 1.2.1 Help with professional growth and development of Association members.
 - 1.2.2 Add to the continuity of the group as members graduate by helping to communicate goals to future generations of members.
 - 1.2.3 Assist in the area of program content and purpose.

Article IX – Finance

- 1.1 The Chapter will not require membership dues. Funding will be received from BEC, state FWEA, and a variable amount from the Environmental Career Forum and general fundraising activities (e.g. selling t-shirts, “Green Team”).

Article X – Dissolution of Organization

- 1.1 In the event this organization dissolves, all monies left in the treasury, after outstanding debts and claims have been paid, shall be donated to the Environment Engineering Sciences department of the College of Engineering at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida.

Article XI – Meetings

1.6 General Meetings

- 1.6.1 Meetings will be held once a month during the Fall and Spring Semesters, or as otherwise deemed necessary by the President.
- 1.6.2 Meetings will be held during the Summer Semester as deemed necessary by the President.
- 1.6.3 Meetings are open to all Chapter members, University students, faculty, and alumni.
- 1.6.4 The Board has the right to dismiss anyone from a meeting for displaying disorderly or disruptive conduct.

Article XII – Committees

- 1.1 Committees may be established as required.

1.2 Committee Chair

- 1.2.1 Committees shall have a Chairperson as appointed by the Board.
- 1.2.2 The Committee Chairperson shall report all Committee activity to the Vice President in a timely manner.
- 1.2.3 Committee Chairperson shall be removed by a simple majority vote of the Board for failure to perform assigned duties or attain committee goals.

1.3 Nominating Committee

- 1.3.1 The Nominating Committee shall:
 - 1.3.1.1 Consist of three (3) eligible voting members appointed by the President.

- 1.3.1.2 Nominate candidates for the Elected Offices.
- 1.3.1.3 Have assurance of all nominated of their willingness to serve.

Article XIII – Chapter Conduct

- 1.1 All activities conducted or endorsed by the Chapter will:
 - 1.1.1 Adhere to the University Student Guide and other laws, rules, and regulations governing the University and its students, including, but no limited to the Board of Regents Operating Manual, Sections 7.41 and 7.42; Section 877.13, Florida Statutes; Chapter 876, Florida Statutes.
 - 1.1.2 Not engage in or support any form of hazing as defined by University policy.

Article XIV – Expulsions

- 1.1 Any member may be expelled from the Chapter for good and sufficient reason by 2/3 majority vote at any General Meeting, provided that such 2/3 majority shall include at least half the members of the Chapter.
- 1.2 Any officer may be removed from the Board for good and sufficient reason by a 2/3 majority vote at any General Meeting, provided that such 2/3 majority shall include at least half the members of the Chapter.

Article XV – Quorum

- 1.1 Board
 - 1.1.1 A quorum of the Board shall consist of a majority of the Board members.
- 1.2 Meetings
 - 1.2.1 A quorum of the Meeting shall consist of a majority of the voting members.

Article XVI – Amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws

- 1.1 The Constitution
 - 1.1.1 A petition to amend the Constitution of the Chapter must be signed by at least three (3) members of the Chapter.

- 1.1.2 Adoption of an amendment shall be a 2/3 majority vote at any General Meeting, provided that such 2/3 majority shall include at least half the members of the Chapter.
- 1.1.3 Any amendment shall be such that the entire Constitution remains in harmony with the Association's and Federation's Constitutions.

1.2 The Bylaws

- 1.2.1 A petition to amend the Constitution of the Chapter must be signed by at least two (2) members of the Chapter.
- 1.2.2 Adoption of an amendment shall be a 2/3 majority vote at any General Meeting, provided that such a 2/3 majority shall include at least half the members of the Chapter.
- 1.2.3 Any amendment shall be such that the entire Bylaws remains in harmony with the Association's and Federation's Bylaws.