

As amended on October 31, 2007

Bylaws of the Odum School of Ecology

1. **Mission of the Odum School of Ecology.** Our mission is to foster the study of the interrelations of organisms and their environment, train future generations of ecologists, and advance the science of ecology in society through novel interdisciplinary studies and outreach. We strive for excellence in 1) conducting innovative basic ecological research, 2) solving environmental problems and understanding the consequences of global change, 3) promoting environmental literacy among students and the public, and 4) initiating interdisciplinary studies of the scientific and societal dimensions of environmental change. Our approaches rest on novel techniques, models and theory in research and promotion of experiential learning by students, often involving unanticipated interdisciplinary study and outreach. To succeed we will build strong collaborative relationships within and among areas of emphasis, creating greater ties with units at the university and other institutions.
2. **Membership.** The membership of the Odum School of Ecology shall consist of faculty, postdoctoral associate, staff and student members. The faculty members are comprised of Regular Faculty, Support Faculty and Courtesy/Adjunct Faculty.

Regular Faculty Members include (1) tenured and tenure-track faculty with some portion of their EFT assigned to the Odum School of Ecology, and (2) nontenure-track faculty who hold Regular Faculty status as determined by prior vote of the Regular Faculty at the time of appointment. All nontenure-track faculty deemed Regular Faculty as of October 15, 2007 shall continue as such. Emeritus faculty do not qualify as Regular Faculty.

Support Faculty Members are nontenure track faculty who are hired to support specific research, teaching or public service and outreach programs at the Odum School of Ecology. Because of the specialized nature of their employment, they do not have the voting privileges of Regular Faculty.

Courtesy and Adjunct Faculty Members are elected by the Regular Faculty to participate in the research, teaching and service programs of the School. Courtesy faculty will be chosen from those tenure track faculty in other schools and departments of the University of Georgia who wish to participate in the School's programs. Adjunct faculty include individuals in research or service ranks outside the University who evidence a scholarly interest in the science of ecology. The term of membership for all adjunct and courtesy members is 3 years. After three years, membership may be renewed upon 1) a request by the individual faculty member and 2) approval of the request by the Regular Faculty. Courtesy and Adjunct faculty are permitted to serve as major advisors to graduate students who

meet the Odum School of Ecology's admissions criteria. Funding priority will be given to graduate students of current and former Regular Faculty.

Student Members are graduate students of the Odum School of Ecology Graduate Student Association.

Voting Privileges of the Faculty: Regular Faculty will vote on matters pertaining to the appointment of new faculty and other matters concerning the programs of the School. Only Regular Faculty at Associate, Full Professor and equivalent Research and Service ranks may vote on tenure and promotion to Associate and equivalent Research and Service ranks in the Regular Faculty. Only Regular Faculty at Full Professor and equivalent Research and Service ranks may vote on tenure and promotion to Full Professor and equivalent Research and Service ranks in the Regular Faculty.

Voting Privileges of the Staff. Staff members will elect representatives to attend faculty meetings, serve on committees as appropriate, and bring to the faculty staff views on issues. Staff collectively receive one vote and representatives may vote on most matters except those concerned with faculty appointments, promotion and tenure and other matters specified by University bylaws. The collective opinion of the staff regarding new faculty appointments will be given serious consideration.

Voting Privileges of the Postdoctoral Associates: Postdoctoral associates will be permitted to contribute to the student vote.

Voting Privileges of Student Members: Student members will elect representatives to attend faculty meetings, serve on committees as appropriate, and bring to the faculty students' views on issues. Such representatives may vote on most matters except those concerned with promotion and tenure and other matters specified by University bylaws. Graduate students collectively receive one vote on the appointment of new faculty and other matters concerning the programs of the School.

3. Administration and Governance

Faculty Meetings:

- A. Meetings shall be held as required by University Statutes, and all Regular Faculty will meet at least once each academic term. The agenda for these meetings will be distributed to the faculty at least one calendar week in advance of the meeting.
- B. Special meetings shall be called as deemed necessary by the Dean.

- C. Meetings may also be called upon petition signed by not less than one-third of the Regular Faculty. In such meetings, discussions and actions shall be limited to items listed on an agenda distributed by the petitioners to the faculty at least one calendar week in advance of the meeting.
- D. Unless otherwise specified, the Dean or Associate Dean shall preside at all faculty meetings.
- E. Voting privileges are limited to (1) tenured and tenure-track faculty with some portion of their EFT assigned to the Odum School of Ecology, and (2) nontenure-track faculty who hold Regular Faculty status as determined by prior vote of the Regular Faculty at time of appointment. All nontenure-track faculty deemed Regular Faculty as of October 15, 2007 shall continue as such.
- F. Members of the Graduate Student Association shall annually elect two of their number to serve as their representatives in faculty meetings. The Graduate Student Representatives shall be permitted one vote between them in faculty meetings. In rare instances deemed appropriate by two thirds of the voting faculty present at a meeting, the Graduate Student Representatives may be excused from part or all of a faculty meeting.
- G. Members of the staff shall annually elect one of their number to serve as their representative in faculty meetings. The staff shall be permitted one vote in faculty meetings and may vote on most matters except those concerned with faculty appointments, promotion and tenure and other matters specified by University bylaws. In rare instances deemed appropriate by two thirds of the voting faculty present at a meeting, the staff representative may be excused from part or all of a faculty meeting.
- H. For official business to be conducted at any meeting, over half of the voting faculty must be present. Absent faculty who have left their absentee or proxy votes will not contribute to the quorum.
- I. The Dean, or Associate Dean, shall seek to implement formal decisions of the faculty that reflect a consensus (defined as 2/3 of the voting faculty which includes only those present at a meeting).
- J. Faculty who are unable to attend a faculty meeting may submit to the Dean or Associate Dean written opinions regarding agenda items and an absentee vote or the name of a designated proxy. These opinions will be read at the faculty meeting and if any initial straw vote is taken it will include absentee and proxy votes. However subsequent to discussion a binding vote will be taken that shall not include absentee and proxy votes.
- K. An exception to sections I and J relates to Promotion and Tenure decisions which require a vote by all voting faculty of appropriate rank. Faculty who

are unable to attend a Promotion and Tenure faculty meeting shall submit to the Dean or Associate Dean a written absentee vote. Proxy votes shall not be permitted for Promotion and Tenure decisions.

K. Parliamentary Procedure: All questions of parliamentary procedure shall be governed by the latest edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Officers: The officers of the Odum School of Ecology shall be the Dean, Associate Dean and Assistant Dean. The university President, in consultation with a representative committee of faculty members, will recommend appointment of the Dean subject to approval by the Board of Regents. The Dean shall serve at the pleasure of the President. In the fifth year of service an evaluation of the Dean will be performed by a committee comprised of the School's faculty. This review shall be forwarded to the President for consideration of the Dean's overall performance. The Associate Dean and Assistant Dean will be appointed by the Dean. The Associate Dean and Assistant Dean will become members of the Regular Faculty upon a favorable vote of the Regular Faculty. The Dean shall specify the duties of each at the time of appointment.

Standing Committees: The executive committee acts as an advisory body to the Dean, Associate Dean and Assistant Dean and will consist of five elected members (one representing, and elected annually by, the graduate students and four representing, and elected by, the Regular Faculty with at least one member from the ranks of Full Professor and at least one from any rank below Full Professor). The executive committee will act for the faculty and students between faculty meetings. The executive committee will report its deliberations and decisions to the faculty. Decisions not receiving unanimous consent must be brought before the faculty for resolution. The term of committee members is two years, with two members elected in June each year. The Regular Faculty candidate with the next highest number of votes is considered the alternate committee member. Executive committee members cannot serve consecutive terms but can be re-elected after one term of non-service.

Amendment of Bylaws

The Bylaws can be amended by consensus vote (defined as 2/3 of the Regular Faculty) at a called meeting.