

The University of Georgia  
Odum School of Ecology  
Alumni Board of Members

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I.  
NAME

The name of the organization shall be The University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology Alumni Board of Members, which shall be referred to hereinafter as “Alumni Board”. Alumni refers to all former community members of the Odum School of Ecology, and the preceding Institute of Ecology, who matriculated or earned a degree from the University of Georgia. This group is wholly affiliated with the University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology and subject to the conditions set forth in these bylaws.

ARTICLE II.  
PURPOSE AND POWERS

The purpose of the Odum School of Ecology Alumni Board shall be the following:

1. Mission Statement. The Odum School of Ecology aspires to cultivate a strong community, adhering to the premise that together we are more than the sum of our parts. The Alumni Board supports the mission, programs, and culture of the Odum School by fostering a community of life-long learners and connecting across generations.
2. Vision Statement. To develop and maintain a dynamic and responsive alumni organization by establishing a shared sense of community among individuals whose ties to one another, to the Odum School of Ecology and the University of Georgia do not end with their time at the School.
3. Goals.
  - a. To promote Odum School of Ecology and Institute of Ecology community member and alumni interests by advocating for the needs of alumni to Odum School of Ecology faculty, officials, administrators, and current students.
  - b. To foster and sustain a culture of alumni involvement and giving back material, financial, and human resources to the Odum School of Ecology.
  - c. To capitalize on the time, energy, and talent of alumni by shepherding the development of students in ways that deepen their commitment to the Odum School of Ecology and prepare them for active roles in the alumni community.

- d. To enable the Odum School of Ecology to be a life-long, value-added community for all alumni.

4. Objectives.

- a. To continuously educate alumni, current students, and broader communities about The Odum School of Ecology mission, objectives, and capabilities.
- b. To continuously educate ourselves about the evolving needs of the Odum School of Ecology students, staff, and alumni through on-going exchange of ideas, both formal and informal.
- c. To continuously educate ourselves about the diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives of Odum School of Ecology in order to build on our legacy of innovation and collaboration.
- d. To manage and adapt to changes in technology in order to meet the needs of the Odum School of Ecology members and to promote a sense of community.
- e. To enhance the experience of Odum School of Ecology undergraduate and graduate students, through support, connections, mentorship, and encouragement.
- f. To advance Odum School of Ecology career development initiatives and to broaden career opportunities for students and alumni.
- g. To create dynamic links with the Odum School of Ecology graduates around the country and globe.
- h. To aid the Odum School of Ecology in its efforts to attract, enroll, and train the best and brightest students from around the world.
- i. To participate in development initiatives by making philanthropy to the Odum School of Ecology a priority and giving annually at a level that is meaningful.
- j. To support the objectives and goals of the Odum School of Ecology fundraising efforts.

ARTICLE III.  
MEMBERSHIP

- 1. Eligibility. Membership in the Alumni Board shall be open to any alumni of the University of Georgia Odum School of Ecology as defined in Article 1 with the exception of current employees.
- 2. Members.

- a. The Alumni Board shall initially consist of 13 members. Positions shall be filled from the qualified pool of Alumni Board applicants. Future membership may exceed 13 members due to committee or executive appointments and terms.
  - b. The Board will seek membership from a broad array of candidates to include diverse perspectives and underrepresented populations. The Board may utilize resources external to the Odum School of Ecology to identify the Odum School of Ecology alumni, including but not limited to the University of Georgia Foundation's database. The primary criterion for membership shall be a commitment to serve the interests of alumni.
3. Appointment. The Odum School of Ecology Alumni Board Working Group shall appoint the Alumni Board for its first year. For the appointment of members to serve beginning July 1, 2023, the Odum School of Ecology Alumni Board Working Group may appoint them at the spring working group meeting, or at such other time as they shall determine. Four appointed members to the initial Board will serve one year terms, four will serve two year terms, and five will serve three year terms. After the initial member terms end, subsequent elected members shall serve three year staggered terms, with a number of members elected each year necessary to maintain the proper board size. Applications for vacancies will open in Spring and election decisions shall be made by the Alumni Board. Board membership will conclude with the Summer meeting for all members whose term expires in that year. A member whose term has expired shall remain in office until their successor is appointed.
4. Ex-Officio Members. The Dean of the Odum School of Ecology and the alumni relations coordinator shall serve on the Board as ex-officio members, but shall have no vote. The Board may also invite one representative from the Odum School of Ecology undergraduate programs, one representative from the graduate programs, and one current or emeritus faculty member to serve two-year terms as ex-officio members, with no voting privileges.
5. Good Standing. To remain in good standing, Board members must be actively engaged in advancing the Board's alumni engagement and fundraising purposes, including but not limited to serving as an officer or committee member and giving at a level that is meaningful to them. Additionally, unless otherwise excused or approved in advance by the Board, any member absent from two consecutive Board meetings shall be required to resign from the Board.

#### ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS AND DUTIES

1. Officers. The officers of the Board shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and the Dean of the Odum School of Ecology. The Chair shall not be eligible for re-election. The Vice-Chair shall also serve as Chair-Elect, advancing to the office of Chair for the next term of office. Officers shall serve a term of two years, or until their successors are elected and qualified. In the event an officer's term exceeds the duration of his or her membership on the Board, the officer will be automatically re-appointed for a second term on the Board (or for an additional year if the officer is already in their second term).

2. Nomination. The Alumni Board Working Group shall nominate and elect the officers of the Alumni Board for its first year. For the election of officers who take office in each subsequent July, the Nominating Committee shall present a slate of officers to the members for election in the prior Spring. A majority vote of Members of the Board present will be required for their election.
3. Vacancy. In the event of a vacancy in the position of Chair, the Vice-Chair shall complete the former Chair's unexpired term of office and, thereafter, shall serve a one-year term as Chair. In such an event, the Board shall elect a new Vice-Chair at the next scheduled Board meeting. Should there be a vacancy created in the position of Vice-Chair, the Board shall elect a new Vice-Chair at the next scheduled Board meeting to complete the unexpired term of Vice-Chair.
4. Duties.
  - a. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee and the regular meetings of the Board and shall be responsible for coordinating the duties and responsibilities of the other officers and for appointing the members of all committees. The Chair shall oversee and coordinate all activities of the Alumni Board, including all programs, special projects, the selection of new Members, and finances. The Chair, with assistance from the Vice-Chair, must provide an annual written report at the Summer Alumni Board Meeting. The report at a minimum shall outline activities from the prior year and goals for the upcoming year. Upon the expiration of the Chair's term of office, he or she shall continue to serve the Board as the "Immediate Past Chair" by serving on the Executive Committee and chairing the Nominating Committee.
  - b. The Vice-Chair shall, in the absence of the Chair, exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Chair.
  - c. The Secretary shall be responsible for all matters pertaining to Board membership. This officer shall also provide training and introductory materials to new Board members.
  - d. Members shall have the following responsibilities to remain in good standing as defined in Article III: serve on a committee, attend Board meetings and events, promote the Odum School of Ecology among alumni, and advance the Odum School of Ecology mission in other ways, which involve a commitment of time and financial resources.

#### ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

The organization of the Board shall be composed of various committees as needed to facilitate the purpose of the Board, including but not limited to the following standing committees:

1. Executive Committee. The members of the Executive Committee shall be the Immediate Past Chair, the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Secretary, and the Dean of the Odum School of Ecology. The responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall be to determine the dates of meetings for the upcoming year, for planning and organizing the Board meetings, and outlining specific projects for consideration by the Board. The Executive Committee, in its discretion, shall have the authority to form ad hoc committees when deemed necessary and empowered to call upon other members of the Board for assistance in furtherance of the purposes of the Board. The Dean shall serve as ex-officio member only, and shall have no vote. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall be a majority of the members of such committee. Any action of the Executive Committee shall require a majority vote of the members of the Executive Committee present.
  
3. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of the Executive Committee and two Members appointed by the Chair. The secretary shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Nominating Committee, but shall have no vote. It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary to notify all Alumni of vacancies on the Board. After the Winter Board Meeting, a letter will be sent to all Members whose terms are expiring. The Nominating Committee should elicit names in writing from the current Members and Alumni by March 31<sup>st</sup>, including self nominations. It shall be the responsibility of the Nominating Committee to enact inclusive membership practices and to attempt to solicit new and diverse perspectives each term. The Nominating Committee shall meet no later than April 30<sup>th</sup>, and develop a slate of nominees for the Board vacancies. This slate of nominees shall be sent for all current Board Members for their vote by proxy. The deadline for proxy return will be May 31<sup>st</sup>. All newly elected and reelected Members shall begin their term of service on July 1<sup>st</sup> and be invited to attend the Fall Board Meeting. A Member who elects to resign or who chooses not to offer for reelection shall notify the Secretary in writing prior to March 31<sup>st</sup>.
  
4. Fundraising Committee. The Fundraising Committee shall support the Odum School of Ecology's fundraising efforts and encourage classmates and friends of the Odum School of Ecology to support the School's giving priorities. Committee members shall seek new and creative ideas to increase class participation levels and build a culture of philanthropic alumni.
  
5. Student Support Committee. The Student Support Committee shall find opportunities for the Alumni Board to interact with undergraduates and graduates to enhance their experience while at the Odum School of Ecology. This Committee shall interact with student organizations, career development programs, and faculty to offer support and opportunities to further student development. This committee would also disseminate to the Odum School of Ecology information about the Alumni Board activities so as to encourage their involvement as they become Odum School of Ecology alumni.

With the exception of the Immediate Past Chair, who shall serve as chairperson of the Nominating Committee, no other officer of the Executive Committee shall serve as a committee chair.

Committee members shall be appointed by the Chair as soon as possible after their election. Committee members may be re-appointed to unlimited consecutive terms so long as they remain eligible for membership on the Board. The only exception is the Chair of the Nominating Committee who is also the Immediate Past Chair.

#### ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

1. Regular Meetings. There shall be four scheduled meetings of the Board each year, two in the fall, one in the winter, and one in the spring, on such dates and at such times as the Executive Committee shall determine. The Chair shall establish the agenda and topics for discussion at each meeting.
2. Special Meeting. In addition to the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board, special meetings may be held at the discretion of the Executive Committee or upon the request of three or more Members, provided, however, that the Board be given no less than thirty days written notice of such meeting.

Meetings may be conducted in person, via videoconference, teleconference, or any other means of communication as long as a quorum is present.

#### ARTICLE VII. PROCEDURE

1. All Board meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order as necessary.
2. A quorum shall consist of one-half of the Members of the Board.

#### ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENT

These Bylaws shall be amended or repealed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the quorum of the Board present at any duly authorized meeting. Notice of any proposed amendment or repeal shall be given to the members of the Board not later than ten (10) days prior to such meeting. Any amendments must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the quorum of the Alumni Board present at any duly authorized meeting.

#### ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the Alumni Board, all records, receipts, and property, shall become the sole possession of the Odum School of Ecology pursuant to that organization's bylaws and any pertinent state or federal regulations.

Effective Date 2/6/2023