



**BYLAWS of ESEE, the UC Merced  
STUDENT CHAPTER of the George Wright Society**

**BYLAWS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, ECOLOGY, AND EVOLUTION (ESEE): THE UC  
MERCED STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE GEORGE WRIGHT SOCIETY**

Organized: [date approved by The George Wright Society]

**ARTICLE I. NAME, AREA, AND AFFILIATION**

**Section 1. NAME** - The name of this organization shall be Environmental Systems, Ecology, and Evolution (ESEE): the University of California, Merced Student Chapter of the George Wright Society (hereinafter referred to as the Student Chapter).

**Section 2. AREA** - The Student Chapter shall have as its area of organization on the UC Merced campus and environs.

**Section 3. CRITERIA FOR AFFILIATION** - The Student Chapter shall conform to bylaws, code of ethics, and objectives as adopted by the George Wright Society. The Student Chapter also shall maintain appropriate affiliation with the campus or student government organizations required by UC Merced regulations.

**Section 4. POSITION STATEMENTS** – Student chapters of the George Wright Society will not have the authority to issue position statements on behalf of the George Wright Society.

**ARTICLE II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Section 1. GOALS** - Consistent with the goals of The George Wright Society, the goals of the Student Chapter are:

*CLAUSE A - Provide opportunities for improved communication among individual student and professional members locally, with other student chapters and the George Wright Society.*

*CLAUSE B - Augment the educational opportunities for students in natural/cultural resources and/or parks and protected area management at UC Merced.*

*CLAUSE C - Prepare members for careers in conservation and parks and protected area management.*

*CLAUSE D - Encourage professionalism and high standards of scholarship.*

*CLAUSE E - Foster campus and community awareness of conservation, parks and protected area issues.*

**Section 2. OBJECTIVES** - To aid in the achievement of these goals, the Student Chapter proposes to:

*CLAUSE A - Hold chapter meetings and activities on a regular basis that expand members' knowledge of park, protected areas and natural/cultural resources management.*

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*CLAUSE B - Provide opportunities for members to participate in activities and conferences sponsored by the George Wright Society.*

*CLAUSE C - Provide opportunities for Student Chapter members to develop an understanding of employers' objectives and needs.*

*CLAUSE D – Provide professional development opportunities for Student Chapter members through participation in research and collaboration on publications and presentations.*

*CLAUSE E - Conduct educational programs on conservation and parks and protected area issues for the campus and surrounding community.*

*CLAUSE F - Ensure the continuation of the Student Chapter through the ongoing recruitment of new members.*

**ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1. FULL MEMBER** - Full Membership in the Student Chapter shall be available to any Voting Member of the George Wright Society who is a registered student at UC Merced. Only Student Chapter Full Members may hold elective offices in the Student Chapter and officially represent the Student Chapter on business of the George Wright Society by Executive Board or officer appointment.

**Section 2. ASSOCIATE MEMBER** - Associate Membership in the Student Chapter shall be available to any registered student or postdoctoral researcher at UC Merced who is not a member of the George Wright Society, but who has an interest in the goals and objectives of the Student Chapter. Associate Members shall be entitled to all rights, privileges and responsibilities of Student Chapter Full Members, including voting in Student Chapter elections, except those reserved for Full Members (Article III, Section 1).

**Section 3. CHARTER MEMBER** - Full and Associate Members in good standing with the university on the membership rolls as of September 2015 shall be considered Charter Members.

**Section 4. POSTDOCTORAL ADVISOR** - The Student Chapter Postdoctoral Advisor position is advertised and selected by the President, Postdoctoral Advisor, and Faculty Advisor, for a term of one year. A Postdoctoral Advisor may serve no more than 2 terms and cannot adjudicate on a competition to which they apply.

**Section 5. STUDENT CHAPTER FACULTY ADVISOR** - At least one UC Merced faculty member shall serve as an advisor as required for compliance with UC Merced Graduate Student Organizations. Faculty Advisors are term unlimited; in the event of a change in Faculty

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Advisor, the Advisory Board (see Section 10 of this article) will solicit and choose a new advisor.

**Section 6. STUDENT CHAPTER GWS ADVISOR** - At least one faculty or professional who is a current member of the George Wright Society shall serve as an advisor. GWS Advisors are term unlimited; in the event of a change in GWS Advisor, the Advisory Board (see Section 10 of this article) will solicit and choose a new advisor.

**Section 7. DUES** - Annual chapter dues (independent from GWS membership dues) shall be determined at each business meeting by a simple majority vote of the Student Chapter membership. Dues shall be payable by each member to the Treasurer. Members who have not paid Student Chapter dues lose all privileges of Student Chapter membership. Members who have not paid dues to the George Wright Society for the current year shall lose their Full Member status in the Student Chapter. Dues can be set as low as \$0.

**Section 8. RESIGNATION** - Members may resign at any time by giving notice to the Secretary, or will be considered to have resigned if annual Student Chapter dues are not paid in accordance with Article III, Section 7.

**Section 9. REINSTATEMENT** - Persons who are dropped from the membership roster of the Student Chapter for non-payment of dues or resignation may have their membership reinstated upon payment of appropriate current dues.

**Section 10. ADVISORY BOARD** - The Advisory Board shall be comprised of Student Officers (listed in Article IV, Section 3), the Postdoctoral Advisor, the Faculty Advisor and the GWS Advisor. The Advisory Board will meet, at minimum, at the beginning and end of the school year. Ideally, all members would be present (physical presence not required), but an individual meeting of the Post-doctoral Advisor and President with each of the Faculty and GWS Advisors, which is then communicated to the group, will suffice.

**ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS, OFFICERS, AND EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Section 1. NOMINATIONS** - Nominees should be graduate students from the Student Chapter Full or Associate Membership for each of the elective positions, namely: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The current Vice-President should be automatically nominated for President if the President has served their maximum allowed terms. Nominations should be submitted to the Elections Committee.

**CLAUSE A** - Nominees must be Full or Associate Members (Article III, Section 1).

**CLAUSE B** - Nominees must consent to becoming candidates.

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**CLAUSE C** - Nomination slate shall be submitted by the Secretary to the membership at least 14 days prior to balloting (Article IV, Section 2).

**CLAUSE D** - A member shall not be a nominee for more than one elective position at a time.

**CLAUSE E** - A member may serve in the same elective position for no more than two consecutive terms of office.

**CLAUSE F** – President and Vice-President positions must be filled. If there are no candidates for Secretary and/or Treasurer, the President will assume Secretary responsibilities and the Vice-President will assume Treasurer. Nominations can occur at any point during the year for open positions.

**Section 2. BALLOTING** - Written and/or electronic ballots shall be received from the members and counted by the Elections Committee. Written ballots, if used, will be collected at the annual business meeting. For ballot counting purposes, the President shall appoint a replacement for any member of the Elections Committee who has been nominated for an elective position.

**CLAUSE A** - Members in arrears shall forfeit their rights to vote during the period of their resignation.

**CLAUSE B** - Members may submit an absentee ballot to the Elections Committee in a sealed, signed envelope or via an electronic system prior to the scheduled time for counting ballots.

**CLAUSE C** - The candidate receiving the largest number of votes on the ballot shall be declared elected.

**CLAUSE D** - In the event of a tie, a coin toss shall decide the election.

**Section 3. OFFICERS** - Officers of the Student Chapter shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Their duties are:

**CLAUSE A - PRESIDENT** - The President shall preside as chair at all meetings of the membership and Executive Officers and shall be responsible for supervising the Executive Officers with the Postdoctoral Advisor. In consultation with the Executive Officers and Postdoctoral Advisor, the President shall 1) develop agendas for the business portion of all meetings of the membership and Executive Officers, and 2) appoint chairs for all committees. The President shall be an *ex officio* member of all committees, except the Elections Committee. The President may represent the Student Chapter or appoint alternate representatives to boards, committees, or meetings of other

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student chapters, or the George Wright Society. The President shall be responsible for submitting an annual report on the Student Chapter's activity to the George Wright Society.

**CLAUSE B - VICE-PRESIDENT** - The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the absence or upon the inability of the President to serve, and shall perform any duties assigned by the President. The Vice-President is responsible for professional development activities and awareness for the organization. In the event the Vice-President cannot serve in the President's absence, the officers and Postdoctoral Advisor shall appoint a President, *pro tempore*.

**CLAUSE C - SECRETARY** - The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the files and membership roster of the Student Chapter, recording and issuing minutes of all meetings of the membership, officers, and Advisory Board, and producing and issuing announcements to the membership and relevant graduate groups and postdoctoral researchers.

**CLAUSE D - TREASURER** - The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the financial records and managing the funds of the Student Chapter, preparing an annual budget for the Student Chapter for approval by the Executive officers and Postdoctoral Advisor, complying with UC Merced guidelines, and reporting on the financial status of the Student Chapter at each meeting of the membership and Executive officers and Postdoctoral Advisor. Duties shall include the receipt and disbursement of funds under the direction of the Executive officers and Postdoctoral Advisor. For any funds issued to the Chapter by the George Wright Society, the Treasurer shall be responsible for submitting a calendar-year financial statement to the George Wright Society via the GWS Advisor in January of each year. The statement shall consist of starting and ending balances, income, and expenses.

**Section 4. TERM OF OFFICE** - Officers serve for approximately one year, are inducted at the end of each spring semester, assume office immediately thereafter, and, unless reelected, terminate their duties at the conclusion of the following spring semester, or at such time as their successors are elected and installed.

**ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

**Section 1. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** - Meetings of the membership shall be for the purposes of conducting business of the Student Chapter, providing educational opportunities and

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career training for Student Chapter members, and promoting information exchange and networking among Student Chapter members. Meetings shall be held as follows:

**CLAUSE A - REGULAR MEETINGS** - Regular meetings of the Student Chapter membership shall be held at such times and places as determined and published by the Secretary. There shall be no less than 4 regular meetings each school year.

**CLAUSE B - BUSINESS MEETING** - An additional meeting of the Student Chapter membership in spring semester shall be known as the Business Meeting, and shall be for the purposes of electing and/or inducting new leadership, receiving reports of officers and committees, and for any other business that may arise.

**CLAUSE C - SPECIAL MEETINGS** - Special meetings of the Student Chapter membership may be called by the leadership at any time, provided the purpose of the call is given. Only items listed in the call for a special meeting shall be acted upon at the special meeting.

**Section 2. PROCEDURES** - The following procedures shall govern all meetings.

**CLAUSE A - DUE NOTICE** - Members must be notified at least 10 days prior to regular, business, and special meetings of the Student Chapter membership.

**CLAUSE B - QUORUM** - Quorum for regular, business, and special meetings of the Student Chapter membership shall be over fifty percent of the membership (as defined in Article III, Sections 1-3) or 5 members in good standing, whichever is less.

**CLAUSE C - MEETING RULES** - Order of business and parliamentary procedures at meetings of the Student Chapter membership shall follow *The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure (Sturgis)*, latest revision.

**CLAUSE D - BYLAWS** - The bylaws of the Student Chapter shall be available for inspection during every meeting of the membership.

**ARTICLE VI. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCES**

**Section 1. FINANCES** - Funds of the Student Chapter shall be under the direction of the leadership and shall be managed by the Treasurer. The financial records of the Student Chapter shall be available to all members upon request.

**CLAUSE A - LIABILITY** - The Treasurer need not be bonded.

**CLAUSE B - SOURCE OF FUNDS** - Funds shall be derived from dues, sale of chapter-sponsored merchandise or publications, special activities, contributions, and other sources approved by the leadership.

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**CLAUSE C - MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS** - Funds will be managed in line with university regulations.

**CLAUSE D - FISCAL YEAR** - The Student Chapter operating and fiscal year shall begin July 1.

**Section 2. REPORTS** - Within 20 days of an election or other official action, the GWS Advisor shall report such action to the Executive Director of the George Wright Society. An annual report on the activities of the Student Chapter shall be forwarded to these same parties as described in Article IV, Section 3, CLAUSE A. The Student Chapter also shall submit a calendar-year financial statement to the George Wright Society as described in Article IV, Section 3, CLAUSE D.

**Section 3. FILES** - The Student Chapter shall maintain files containing: bylaws of the George Wright Society, and the Student Chapter; minutes of all meetings of the membership, officers, and Executive Board; financial statements and records; correspondence pertinent to Student Chapter affairs; all committee reports; list of Charter Members, and all other material designated as pertinent by the leadership.

**ARTICLE VII. COMMITTEES**

**Section 1. APPOINTMENTS** - The President shall appoint chairs for all committees if needed (except the Nominating and Elections Committee). Committee chairs shall complete their committees with the President's assistance.

**Section 2. COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES:**

**CLAUSE A - ELECTIONS** - This three-person committee is appointed by the leadership and performs duties as identified in Article IV, Sections 1 and 2.

**CLAUSE B - PROGRAM AND ACTIVITIES** - This committee shall organize field trips, work projects, service activities, and social functions, as approved by the leadership.

**CLAUSE C - EDUCATION AND SERVICE** - This committee shall conduct educational programs on conservation, parks and protected area issues for the campus and surrounding community and seek opportunities to inform the public of the activities and positions of the Student Chapter and the George Wright Society.

**Section 3. ACCOUNTABILITY** - All committees shall be accountable to President.

**Section 4. TENURE** - All committees shall serve until new committees are appointed in their stead or until the duties assigned to the committee have been discharged.

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**Section 5. REPORTS** - All committee chairs shall provide updates on committee activities to the President on a regular basis and shall submit a written summary of committee activities to the President at the Annual Meeting and at the end of the committee's tenure.

**ARTICLE VIII. DISSOLUTION**

**Section 1. STANDARDS TO CONTINUE** - The Student Chapter must continue to demonstrate its viability to the the George Wright Society by meeting the following standards: a) complying with the criteria for affiliation (Article 1, Section 3), b) submitting the required reports to the George Wright Society (Article VI, Section 3), and c) fulfilling the purposes and intent of these bylaws.

**Section 2. DISSOLUTION** - The George Wright Society may dissolve the Student Chapter, following a 1 year grace period during which time the Student Chapter can come back into compliance, if it finds the Student Chapter is not meeting the standards established in Article VIII, Section 1 for 3 consecutive years. Upon dissolution of the Student Chapter, its leadership shall transfer any properties owned by the George Wright Society back to the Society.

**ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS**

**Section 1. PROCEDURE** - These bylaws may be altered or amended by a simple majority vote of the members of the Student Chapter voting at any regular or special meeting provided due notice (Article V, Section 3, CLAUSE A) of the proposed changes has been given. A member who will be absent from the meeting may file an absentee ballot (Article IV, Section 2, CLAUSE B). Amendments to these bylaws that are approved by the membership of the Student Chapter must be submitted to the George Wright Society and do not become effective until approved by the George Wright Society.

**Section 2. CONFORMANCE** - No amendment to these bylaws shall be enacted that results in a conflict with the bylaws of the George Wright Society.

**ARTICLE X. RATIFICATION**

**Section 1.** These by-laws shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the regular voting membership present and shall be in full force and effect upon ratification by the leadership

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**Section 2.** Amendments to these by-laws shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the regular voting membership present and shall be in full force and effect upon ratification by the leadership.

RATIFIED this 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2016.

*Lauren Schiebelhut*

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Lauren Schiebelhut – President

*Holly J. Swift*

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Holly Swift – Vice-President

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XXX – Treasurer

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XXX – Secretary