



CONSTITUTION of the Marine and Estuarine Graduate Student Association

Gulf Coast Research Laboratory
Revised 09/01/2007

ARTICLE 1: Name

The name of the organization shall be:

Marine and Estuarine Graduate Student Association

ARTICLE 2: Purpose

1. To facilitate professional and social fellowship among our members.
2. To support a forum for the exchange of ideas among graduate students involved in marine science research and between these students and faculty.
3. To participate as a group in community service projects and related volunteer work.

ARTICLE 3: Membership

Section 1. The membership of this organization shall be open to any full or part-time graduate student in residence at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory or Marine Education Center.

Section 2. A quorum of membership for voting purposes shall be reached when $\frac{2}{3}$ of the regular members are present, including proxies. Only students in the Department of Coastal Sciences may vote on departmental issues.

ARTICLE 4: Officers and Duties

The Officers of the organization shall be:

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Student Representative
Faculty Advisor

The duties shall be set forth below:

Section 1. The duties of the President shall be to preside at all meetings of the association, to

enforce the by-laws, to decide questions of order, and to be the representative of the association who will relay student concerns and requests to the faculty advisor.

Section 2. The duties of the Vice-President shall be to act as Parliamentarian at all meetings, to preside at all meetings in the absence of the President and to assist the President in his/her duties.

Section 3. The duties of the Secretary shall be to preside at all meetings, to take roll and minutes of each meeting and distribute to the members, to maintain the membership roster, and to handle correspondence. In the event of the absence in the office of the Vice-President, the Secretary will cover the Vice-President's duties.

Section 4. The duties of the Treasurer shall be to collect dues, keep books, make expenditures, and to render regular reports upon request. He/she shall also present the financial status of the association at the first meeting for each new year.

Section 5. The duties of the Student Representative shall be to attend all faculty meetings and Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC) meetings, to relay student concerns and requests to the faculty at large and GSAC, and to report back to students any information from the faculty and GSAC meetings. This position will serve on the GSAC upon appointment by the COA Chair."

Section 6. A faculty advisor will be selected by the MEGSA members. Duties will include involvement in the Association's programs, advising the forum, attending regularly scheduled meetings, and presenting student concerns to faculty.

Section 7. The officers will collectively be responsible for organizing group events, community service projects, and coordinating seminars.

ARTICLE 5: Elections

Section 1. The election of officers will be held at a scheduled meeting during May of the spring semester.

Section 2. Terms will begin upon the completion of the spring semester.

Section 3. The term of office shall be one year with the exception of the present year which will be 17 months (Jan '07- May '08).

Section 4. Nominations shall be taken one meeting before the election; nominees must accept the nomination in order to be placed on the ballot.

Section 5. New officers will be selected from a majority of votes by secret ballot by dues paying members. The secretary shall count the votes. The President shall not vote.

Section 6. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast the deciding ballot.

Section 7. If more than one office becomes vacant before a full term ends, a special election shall be held to fill these vacancies.

Section 8. An officer may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote at a special meeting.

Section 9. The faculty advisor shall neither vote nor attend election meetings

ARTICLE 6. Qualification of Officers

Section 1. Graduate students in residence at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory or Marine Education Center and Aquarium are qualified to hold office.

Section 2. Only members in good standing, having paid dues and been in regular attendance of meetings are eligible to hold office.

ARTICLE 7. Meetings

Meetings will be held once monthly at a meeting time and day that is determined on a per semester basis to facilitate the attendance by the most members. Non-regular meetings may be scheduled when necessary, with at least one week's notice given to all members. The first meeting of a new year will be designated as an organizational meeting in which the goals of MEGSA for that year will be outlined and committees set up to accomplish these goals.

ARTICLE 8. Fund Raising Activities

The Association may engage in fund raising activities to support association events.

ARTICLE 9. Dues

Dues in the amount of 1 cent shall be collected from each regular member each year to support the Association's events and projects. Dues will be collected by the treasurer at the first meeting of each calendar year.

ARTICLE 10. Amendments

Section 1. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to an officer of the organization.

Section 2. The secretary will distribute copies of the amendment to all members one week prior to a scheduled meeting for discussion and/or voting.

Section 3. Amendments to the Constitution will be made by a majority vote of the Association's membership, including proxies, and will be approved by the student/faculty committee on Union and Student Activities office of the University of Southern Mississippi.

APPENDIX 1: Signatures

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Student Representative

Faculty Advisor

Members:

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2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

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