

Bylaws of the Georgia Coastal Ecosystems Long Term Ecological Research Site

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Article I. Name

Section 1. Name. The name of the organization is the Georgia Coastal Ecosystems Long Term Ecological Research Site (GCE-LTER).

Article II. Affiliation

Section 1. Affiliation. The GCE-LTER is a site within the United States Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) Network. The bylaws of the United States LTER Network shall take precedence over GCE-LTER bylaws whenever they are in conflict. The GCE-LTER receives its core funding from the United States National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF policies shall take precedence over GCE-LTER bylaws whenever they are in conflict. The GCE-LTER is administered through the University of Georgia (UGA). UGA policies shall take precedence over GCE-LTER bylaws whenever they are in conflict.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Membership. The GCE-LTER Membership shall consist of the Project Director(s), Data Manager, and Project Investigators. The Data Manager shall maintain a current list of the Membership and post this list on the GCE-LTER web site.

Article IV. Meetings of the Membership

Section 1. Regular meetings. The GCE-LTER shall meet at least once each year, at a date determined by the Executive Committee. Notice of regular meetings shall be given by the Executive Committee at least 4 weeks in advance of the meeting, and meeting agendas shall be posted on the GCE-LTER web site at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting.

Section 2. Special meetings. The Executive Committee may call special meetings of the GCE-LTER. In addition, the Executive Committee shall call a special meeting if requested to do so by the lead Project Director or petition of one third of the Membership. Notice of special meetings shall be given by the Executive Committee at least 1 week in advance of the meeting.

Section 3. Quorum. No vote can be taken in the absence of a quorum. A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of the GCE-LTER Membership. Voting can be done either electronically or in person.

Article V. GCE-LTER Project Director(s)

Section 1. Project Director(s). The Project Director(s) are the PIs listed on the coversheet

of the current NSF proposal funding the GCE-LTER. All Project Directors are also Project Investigators.

Section 2. Duties. The lead Project Director or appointed delegate shall represent the GCE-LTER to NSF and the LTER Network.

Section 3. Membership on Executive Committee. The lead Project Director shall serve on the GCE-LTER Executive Committee. At least one other Project Director shall also serve on the Executive Committee, unless all other Project Directors decline to serve.

Section 4. Appointment. The Executive Committee shall nominate a lead Project Director for each 6-year grant cycle at the regular GCE-LTER meeting during the fourth year of the current cycle. If the nominated lead Project Director does not receive a positive vote from 2/3 of the Membership, nominations shall be accepted from the floor and the candidate with the most votes shall serve as the incoming lead Project Director (subject to approval from NSF, see Article VIII, Section V). If the incoming lead Project Director differs from the incumbent, both shall serve on the Executive Committee during the remainder of the current NSF grant, with the incumbent PD responsible for administrating the final year of the current grant and the incoming PD responsible for putting together the new proposal.

Article VI. GCE-LTER Data Manager

Section 1. Data Manager. The GCE-LTER Data Manager shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Membership on Executive Committee. The GCE-LTER Data Manager shall serve on the Executive Committee, but shall not vote on matters pertaining to management of the Data Manager position.

Article VII. GCE-LTER Affiliated Professionals and Project Investigators

Section 1. Prerequisites and Duties. Affiliated Professionals and Project Investigators shall have access to the private GCE-LTER web site and data. They shall submit data obtained with GCE-LTER funding to the database in a timely manner, shall submit annual reports in a timely manner, and shall acknowledge GCE-LTER data or funding in relevant presentations and publications. Project Investigators shall have voting rights, and shall routinely attend GCE-LTER meetings. Affiliated Professionals shall not have voting rights. They are encouraged but not expected to routinely attend GCE-LTER meetings.

Section 2. Appointment. Designation as Affiliated Professionals or Project Investigators requires a petition to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall notify the GCE-LTER membership of initial requests for Affiliated Professional or Project Investigator status, and allow a minimum of one week for comment before acting on the request. Appointment terms shall coincide with the duration of the current grant cycle (up to 6 years). Affiliated Professional status is renewable with each grant cycle upon written request to the Executive Committee. Renewal of

Project Investigator status requires submission of a written statement, of a quality that could be incorporated into a proposal, that describes the prospective PI's expected contributions and research goals over the next grant cycle.

Section 3. Removal. Affiliated Professionals or Project Investigators may resign by written request to the Executive Committee. Project Investigators may be re-designated as Affiliated Professionals by written request to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may remove Affiliated Professionals or Project Investigators.

Article VIII. GCE-LTER Executive Committee

Section 1. Powers. Full power in the management of GCE-LTER affairs is vested in the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have power to authorize action on behalf of the GCE-LTER, elect a Chairperson, assign areas of responsibility within the Executive Committee, delegate tasks to Project Investigators, create committees, plan and oversee GCE-LTER research, allocate funds, and otherwise administer the affairs of the GCE-LTER. A record of motions passed by the Executive Committee shall be posted on the project web site.

Section 2. Composition. The GCE-Executive Committee shall consist of the lead Project Director listed on the cover sheet of the current NSF proposal, at least one other Project Director (unless all other Project Directors decline to serve), the Data Manager, and 3 or 4 At Large Project Investigators, for a total of six members.

Section 3. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of 2/3 of the members of the Executive Committee. Unless specified elsewhere in the Bylaws, all matters shall be decided by majority vote. Executive Committee members may attend meetings by telephone or videoconferencing.

Section 4. Election of members. Executive Committee members shall serve 6-year terms. Members may repeat terms indefinitely. At Large Executive Committee members shall be elected at the regular GCE-LTER meeting preceding the 6th year of each NSF grant and begin serving immediately. The outgoing Executive Committee shall present the Membership with a slate of candidates who have agreed to stand for election to the open At Large slots. Additional nominations to the slate will be accepted from the floor. Each GCE-LTER Member may vote for as many At Large candidates as there are vacancies. Subject to the constraints in Article V Section 4 and Article VIII Sections 2, candidates receiving the most votes will be elected.

Section 5. Removal of members. Executive Committee members other than the Data Manager may resign from the Executive Committee by written request to the GCE Executive Committee. If the lead Project Director resigns from the Executive Committee, he or she must also relinquish his or her role as lead Project Director. If the lead Project Director resigns or is otherwise unable to complete his or her term, the Executive Committee will negotiate with NSF to appoint a new lead Project Director. The order of succession shall be 1) other Project Directors in order of seniority, 2) other parties nominated from inside or outside the GCE-LTER Membership by the Executive Committee. Members other than the lead Project Director may be removed from the Executive Committee by 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee. Members other than the lead Project Director and the Data Manager may be removed from the Executive Committee by 2/3 vote of the GCE-LTER Membership at a regular or special meeting. Vacancies on the Executive Committee

other than the lead Project Director shall be filled by election at the next regular meeting, or at a special meeting, using the procedures described in Article VIII, Section 4.

Article IX. Graduate Students

Section 1. Designation. Graduate students who are doing research in the GCE-LTER domain and working with a Project Investigator are considered GCE-LTER graduate students. Other students interested in GCE affiliation may request such designation from the Executive Committee. GCE-LTER graduate students are encouraged to attend GCE meetings and to participate in network activities.

Section 2. Graduate student representative. A graduate student representative will serve as a liaison between GCE graduate students, GCE project investigators, and the LTER network. The representative shall be appointed each year by the Executive Committee, and can serve multiple terms. The representative is expected to attend project and network meetings.

Article X. Other Committees

Section 1. GCE-LTER Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Members of the Advisory Committee shall not be GCE-LTER Project Directors or Project Investigators. The Advisory Committee will provide guidance to the Executive Committee and the GCE-LTER Membership on GCE-LTER research and administration.

Section 2. Ad hoc Committees. The Executive Committee may create such ad hoc committees as are deemed useful. The powers and terms of ad hoc committees shall be limited to those specifically designated by the Executive Committee.

Article XI. Amendments to the Bylaws

Section 1. Amendments. All Bylaws of the GCE-LTER Site shall be subject to amendment or repeal and new amendments may be made by vote of 2/3 of the Membership at any regular or special meeting, or by electronic ballot. A notice that has specified or summarized the proposed amendment, repeal or new Bylaw must be circulated to the Membership at least 2 weeks before the meeting or ballot takes place.