

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name shall be the Bioenvironmental Sciences (BESC) Professional Board, Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Texas A&M University, hereinafter referred to as the “BESC Professional Board” in this document.

ARTICLE II – MISSION AND GOALS

Section 1.

The mission of the BESC Professional Board shall be to assist and advise the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology (“Department”) faculty, staff, and students on a variety of matters related to the Bioenvironmental Sciences associated programs (“BESC Program”) at Texas A&M University (“the University”). Goals are to:

- (a) promote the accomplishments and visibility of the BESC Program and its mission, including, but not limited to its students, faculty, and former students to the University, the general public, the private sector, the public sector, and among non-profit and educational institutions or entities;
- (b) coordinate, develop, and seek fundraising efforts with the University in order to support the BESC Program and its mission;
- (c) promote and encourage interaction between and among the BESC Program, its former students, and its current and future partners;
- (d) assist with mentoring students and bridging their development into environmental professionals with the public, private, educational, and non-profit sectors; and
- (e) assist with identifying potential internship, externship, and employment opportunities with the public, private, educational, and non-profit sectors for students.

Section 2.

The BESC Professional Board shall conduct its affairs in conformity with the bylaws of the Department and the policies and rules of the University as adopted and amended.

Section 3.

The BESC Professional Board does not have powers or duties to control governance of the University, its colleges, or its academic departments or units.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1.

The membership of the BESC Professional Board shall not exceed 24 nor be less than 12, the ex-officio membership shall not exceed six (6).

Section 2.

Any person interested in the Mission and Goals of the BESC Professional Board shall be eligible for membership, provided that such person shall be proposed by one member (including ex-officio member) and endorsed by no less than two other members as well as by the Head of the Department. Members shall be from diverse groups such as former students, members of professional organizations, retired faculty and administrators, community organizations, and the private sector. A Nominating Committee shall be established by the Chair to develop the slate of member nominees annually for presentation to the BESC Professional Board, with voting taking place at the first regular meeting of the spring semester. A simple majority vote of those present and voting shall elect the members. A new member's term shall begin on the date of the first regular meeting of the fall semester, except that when a vacancy has occurred and a new member has been elected by special election to fill such vacancy for the duration of the term, such new member's term shall begin on the date of that special election. The BESC Professional Board should be constituted with due regard to the commitment of the University to diversity with respect to race and ethnicity, age, gender, creed, geographic origin, vocation, and philosophical orientation.

Section 3.

Members shall be elected to three-year terms and may be re-elected to one successive term for a maximum consecutive tenure of six years of service. A retiring member's term shall expire on the date prior to the first regular meeting of the academic year. After an interim year off (September to August) the BESC Professional Board, a person may be eligible for re-election. There shall be no lifetime limit on the number of terms that may be served. The terms of members shall be staggered so that approximately one-third of the BESC Professional Board members' terms expire each year.

Section 3.a.

The Inaugural BESC Professional Board members, consisting of those members invited to the inaugural meeting of the BESC Professional Board on September 21, 2012, shall serve for a term of three years. After completion of their three year term, those Inaugural BESC Professional Board members seeking to remain on the BESC Professional Board, and so elected, shall draw random lots to determine whether their successive term will be one, two, or three years.

Section 4.

Ex-officio non-voting members shall include a BESC Program student representative as appointed by the Head of the Department and/or his or her designees, the Immediate Past Chair, the Head of the Department and/or his or her designees, the faculty liaison to the BESC Professional Board, and any other person(s) approved by a majority of the BESC Professional Board.

Section 5.

Each BESC Professional Board Chair shall serve a one-year subsequent term as ex-officio Immediate Past Chair.

Section 6.

Any elected member may be removed for just cause by a vote of two-thirds of all current members. A notice of reason for removal shall be given in writing at least twenty-one days before removal action is taken. Just cause shall include behavior or conduct that is detrimental to the interests of the University, the Department, and/or the BESC Program.

Section 7.

In the event of a vacancy on the BESC Professional Board by death, disability, resignation, just cause, or any other reason, the BESC Professional Board may elect a successor to serve the unexpired portion of the term of the member vacating the position, by special election in accordance with Article III, Section 2.

Section 8.

Members are required to attend no less than one regular meeting per academic year. Failure to meet the minimum attendance requirements shall be considered just cause for consideration for immediate removal from the BESC Professional Board.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1.

The officers of the BESC Professional Board shall be an elected Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Members shall elect the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

Section 2.

The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, immediate Past Chair, the Head of the Department, and each standing committee chair.

Section 3.

At the first meeting in the academic year in which the terms of elected officers shall expire, the Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of nominees to fill the positions of the members whose terms are expiring, which Nominating Committee shall include the Head of the Department and/or his or her designees. The Nominating Committee shall provide the slate of nominees no less than thirty (30) days prior to the final meeting of the academic year. Additional nominations from the BESC Professional Board members present at the final meeting shall be permitted at that time.

Section 4.

The officers shall be elected by majority vote of those attending the final meeting of the academic year. Their terms shall be for two years and shall begin upon election. Any officer may be removed by two-thirds of the current members.

Section 5.

No member shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. Should their BESC Professional Board membership terms expire before the expiration of their terms as officers, they may remain in office until their terms of office are completed. Should the second board membership term of the Chair or Vice Chair expire simultaneously with the expiration of his/her first term in office, he/she may remain in office, if elected, until the second full two-year term of office is completed.

Section 6.

All vacancies in elected offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee for an interim term until the next regular election of officers, at which time said vacancies shall be filled by election.

Section 7.

The Chair shall preside at meetings of the BESC Professional Board and of the Executive Committee and shall work closely with the BESC Professional Board members and the ex-officio members in pursuing the mission of the BESC Professional Board. If unable to attend a BESC Professional Board meeting, the Chair will designate the Vice Chair to preside, or if the Vice Chair is unable to attend, will arrange for a member of the Executive Committee to preside. The BESC Professional Board shall designate committees to carry out the mission, goals, and objectives of the BESC Professional Board.

Section 8.

The Vice Chair will preside in the absence of the Chair; serve as a member of the Executive Committee, and other assignments, as designated by the BESC Professional Board.

Section 9.

The Secretary, in assistance with the faculty liaison and BESC professional staff, shall be responsible for electronically sending out meeting notices, distributing copies of the agenda to each BESC Professional Board member, recording the attendance and minutes of each meeting, maintaining a current roster of BESC Professional Board members, distributing copies of meeting minutes electronically to each BESC Professional Board Member as soon as possible following each meeting, and maintaining electronic copies of minutes taken at all meetings. The Secretary, in assistance with the faculty liaison and BESC professional staff, shall also be responsible for correspondence and communications, including electronic voting, as directed by the Chair.

ARTICLE V – MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Section 1.

Meetings of the BESC Professional Board shall be called by the Chair or member of the Executive Committee as often as he/she may deem necessary. However, the BESC Professional Board shall meet in person no less than twice per academic year (once in the Fall semester and once in the Spring semester), and at least one of the meetings must take place at the University.

Section 2.

The final meeting of the academic year will serve for the purpose of electing and installing officers and new BESC Professional Board members.

Section 3.

A schedule of meetings for the coming academic year shall be determined at the final meeting of the academic year. Meeting notices and agendas shall be sent out by the Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days before each meeting.

Section 4.

All BESC Professional Board members, except for those designated herein as non-voting ex-officio members, shall each have one vote on matters brought before the BESC Professional Board, with the Chair casting a vote only in the event of a tie. An electronic vote may be taken between meetings or at special meetings.

Section 5.

Unless otherwise provided by these By-Laws, all actions of the BESC Professional Board shall be determined by a simple majority vote of a quorum of all members. A quorum shall be defined as fifty percent (50%) of the current voting BESC Professional Board members, plus one (“Quorum”).

Section 6.

Any member of the Executive Committee can call special meetings. Special meetings can be held by teleconference, videoconference, web-conference or other electronic remote connection provided that the members all have adequate access to such connection. Except in cases of unforeseen emergency, members shall receive at least seven (7) days notice of the special meeting.

Section 7.

Attendance for the fall and spring academic year meetings shall require in-person physical presence at the meeting, unless otherwise approved prior to the call of order by a majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI – STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Section 1.

The Nominating Committee is an ad hoc committee. Standing Committees shall be:

- Executive Committee;
- A committee devoted to financial development, former student outreach and BESC Program marketing;
- A committee devoted to student development and mentoring;
- A committee devoted to faculty and BESC curriculum support.

As the need for additional standing and special committees arise, such committees may be created and appointed by the BESC Professional Board.

Section 2.

Each standing and special committee shall vote to appoint a chair and co-chair of the committee. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary shall not serve as either the chair or co-chair of a standing committee during the term of their office. No BESC Professional Board member shall chair more than one standing or special committee at a time.

Section 3.

Each standing and special committee shall develop a charter that shall be approved by a majority vote of the BESC Professional Board. Any ad hoc committee shall not require a charter.

ARTICLE VII – PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the BESC Professional Board in cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws, those of the University, and any special rules of order the BESC Professional Board may adopt.

ARTICLE VIII - AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the BESC Professional Board by a two-thirds vote of a Quorum, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing and/or electronically to the members at least twenty-one (21) days in advance of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX - ADOPTION

These By-Laws were approved and adopted by the BESC Professional Board on September 21, 2012.