LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY’S FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE CLUB BYLAWS

Mission Statement:

Lake Superior State University’s Fisheries and Wildlife Club (FWC) is an academic organization for students sharing a common interest in fisheries and wildlife conservation and management. The FWC strives to assist students in their professional development by providing field experiences and opportunities to network with professionals and peers. In addition, the FWC advocates for the missions of the American Fisheries Society and the Wildlife Society.

Article I. Membership & Dues

Section 1: Membership is open to all Lake Superior State University students

Section 2: Dues in the amount of $5 per semester shall be collected from each member at the beginning of each semester

Section 3: The members of the Club shall abide by the Code of Conduct (Article XI) set forth by the Fisheries and Wildlife Club.

Article II. Scholarship

Section 1: The Club Advisor(s) shall serve as the Scholarship Director and oversee officer qualifications and approve member requests for financial support.

Section 2: Financial Support

2.1: The Club will offer financial support to allow members to attend professional meetings. Students must meet certain requirements to be eligible for financial support from the Club. Minimum requirements per financial request are noted below:

2.1.1: Minimum requirements to receive travel and lodging (if applicable) support are:

* Must complete travel and lodging forms and sign a code of conduct before receiving funding
* Must be a current dues-paying Club member and attend >30% of club meetings or events
* Must have a cumulative GPA > 2.50 or receive approval by academic advisor and Club advisor
* Must acquire at least two raffle prizes for Club fundraising events OR organize 1 Club event and obtain one raffle prize

2.1.2: Minimum requirements to receive registration fee support are:

* Must be active current dues-paying Club member and attend at least 50% of club meetings or events
* Must have a cumulative GPA > 2.50 or receive approval by academic advisor and Club advisor
* Must acquire at least two raffle prizes for Club fundraising events OR organize 1 Club event and obtain one raffle prize
* Must be presenting a poster or talk at the meeting

4.2: Because the cost of meetings and money available to the Club is variable, and because some students choose to attend multiple meetings in a year, the Club may deny funding any, or all, financial support in some circumstances. Denial for financial support will only occur by vote of the Officers and guidance of the Advisor(s). Events are prioritized by:

* Number of people
* Level of interest
* Level of attendance

These conditions are mainly for conferences such as AFS, TWS (or Conclave), and Midwest. However, it is possible to receive approval for other meetings upon officers’ approval.

4.3: In the event that funds are too limiting to pay a reasonable portion of travel costs for all attendees, preference for who will be supported by the club proceeds as follows, from highest priority to lowest:

* Presenting at meeting
* Relevance to major
* History of previous Club funding
* Class rank

Article III. Meetings

Section 1: Meetings shall be held at least once every month of the school year. Exceptions may be made by the President, who may change or cancel the meeting time by giving notice on the preceding week or before.

Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the President or the Club Advisor(s).

Section 3: Members of the Executive Board and appointed chairpersons are required to attend all Club meetings. Failure of attendance shall be subject to Executive Board review.

Section 4: Minutes shall be taken at all board meetings and general meetings. Minutes from the general meeting shall be posted on the website no later than one week following the general meeting.

Article IV. Club Member Recognition

Section 1: In an effort to recognize the scholarly, service, and social activities of the club members, the club shall name one student the “Outstanding Club Member of the Year” each academic year. This award will be decided by the Club Advisor(s) and Officers and will be announced at the meeting naming the next year’s Officers. Current Officers are not eligible for the award.

Section 2: The “Outstanding Club Member of the Year” will be based on:

* Participating in Club events
* Organizing Club events
* Contributions to finances (raffle prizes, organizing, fundraisers, cost saving)
* Participation with parent societies (AFS and TWS)
* Attendance at Club meetings
* Scholarly activity (e.g., presentations, GPA)

Section 3: The award will consist of a certificate and the addition of the student’s name to a plaque displayed in Crawford Hall the honors past recipients.

Article V. Officers

Section 1: Elected Officers of the Club shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and the Officer’s will comprise the Club’s Executive Board.

Section 2: All Officer’s should maintain a cumulative grade point average above that required for graduation (2.00)

Section 3: Any member wishing to be elected must be a full time student

Section 3: In the event that a President leaves after one semester, the Vice-President shall fill that particular office of the President.

Section 4: Any vacancy in any elected office shall be filled within one month after the vacancy occurs by means of special election.

Section 5: The Club may pay the dues for Officer membership to the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS) if membership is required by the societies.

Article VI. Elections

Section 1: Elections shall be conducted once each year not later than the 2nd to last regular meeting in the spring semester.

Section 2: Notice of the election shall be given by the President two meetings prior to the elections.

Section 3: Nominations shall be made on the meeting prior to the elections.

Section4: Voting shall be by secret ballot and in the same order as the officers are listed in Article V, Section 1. Before each vote, additional nominations may be made from those candidates defeated for office previously.

Section 5: No member shall be elected or appointed to any executive position or committee chairmanship in the Club if the member’s cumulative grade point average is below that required for graduation (2.00)

Section 5: Incoming officers shall be installed at the first meeting following the election of the Officers.

Article VII. Recall

Section 1: Any officer who proves negligent or ineffective in office may be recalled by a two-thirds vote of those voting in a regular meeting.

Section 2: The Club Advisor(s) shall also have the power to obtain the resignation of any Club Officer if they deem the person negligent or ineffective.

Article VIII: Committees

Section 1: Executive Board will create committees and determine the roles and responsibilities of each committee.

Section 2: Chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive Board by the second general meeting after Officer’s are instated.

Section 3: Executive Board will communicate each committee’s roles in writing and review with the Chairperson and its members.

Section 4: Committee Chairperson will determine a meeting schedule for the committee.

Section 5: Committee Chairperson shall make recommendations to the Executive Board for members of their represented committees.

Article IX. Executive Board

Section 1: Members of the Executive Board shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. Club Advisors shall serve as an ex-officio but non-voting member of the Executive Board. The President will be the Presiding Officer at meetings, but in the event that the President is not able to be the Presiding Officer at any meeting, the Vice-President shall sit in as Presiding Officer.

Section 2: The Executive Board and committee Chairpersons shall meet every week prior to the Club meeting. It shall consider any matters involving the good of the Club and make recommendations to the Club for considerations.

Section 3: The Executive Board may act as a disciplinary body. It may assess penalties less than suspension or expulsion; cases which are deemed to require suspension or expulsion shall be recommended to the President for appropriate action.

Section 4: A quorum is needed for all Executive Board meetings and shall be a majority of the members of the Executive Board.

Article X: Finances

Section 1: The Treasurer shall present the budget at each general meeting.

Section 2: Membership dues are set by the Executive Board at the beginning of every academic year.

Section 3: Expenditures up to $150 require the approval of two of the following: the President, the Treasurer, or the Faculty Advisor(s). Expenditures of greater than $150 must be approved by a two-third vote of members present, provided this number shall not be less than half the number of the entire Club.

Article XI: Code of Conduct

Section 1: Members are expected to represent LSSU in a professional manner at Club activities on and off campus.

Section 2: Members are expected to participate in activities for which they sign up

2.1: If a member is unable to attend an event, they must notify the entire Executive Board, the Club Advisor, and event organizer as soon as possible via email (no later than 24 hours prior to the event)

Section 3: Funding can be revoked if code of conduct is not complied with. The student will then have to pay the club back for the funding they received for that event.

Article XII. Amendments

Section 1: These bylaws may be amended or added to at any general Club meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present, provided this number shall not be less than half the number of the entire club. Potential amendment changes must be submitted via email to the Executive Board. The Executive Board will then present the proposed changes and their recommendation to the membership at a general meeting for a vote.

Section 2: The article and section of the bylaw must be brought up at least two weeks prior to the vote.