The purpose of the Graduate Studies in Ecology and Evolution (GSEE) is to operate a graduate and postdoctoral training program leading to advanced degrees in E & E and to foster a stimulating research atmosphere in this field. It is an organization created by those faculty members of the State University of New York at Stony Brook (SUSB) who desire to join in its work and actively contribute to its objectives.

The Governing Committee

The governing body of the Graduate Studies shall be termed the E & E Executive Committee (hereafter called the Executive Committee). It shall ordinarily be composed of a chairman (The Director of Graduate Studies), and four members, all elected by the voting membership of GSEE. The Chairman of the Department of Ecology and Evolution should be an ex officio member of the E & E Executive Committee and is eligible for election to any office in that committee, except secretary.

The "voting membership" (faculty) of the GSEE is defined as those members of the SUSB faculty, including adjunct faculty, who declare their interest in its program and are willing to direct graduate research in E & E. Those members present at the founding session of the GSEE (then called Graduate Program in Ecology and Evolution) are members by declaring their intent. All those who wish to join at a later date should be recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by majority vote of the faculty of the GSEE.

A. Elections

The Director of Graduate Studies shall be elected to a three-year term of office and may be re-elected. He/she shall not, normally, serve more than two consecutive terms of office.

Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected to two-year terms of office. They may be re-elected. The terms of office shall be staggered so that, after the first election, two shall be elected each year.

Elections shall normally be held every April. Special elections, made necessary by vacancies, may be held at other times at the request of the Executive Committee, which will act promptly to fill vacancies.

Elections to membership on the Executive Committee shall take place as follows: The incumbent Executive Committee shall place a "slate" of candidates in nomination by notifying the faculty in writing at least one week before the announced meeting for
election. At the election meeting, other candidates may be nominated from the floor. All
voting shall be by secret ballot.

In those years when a Director of Graduate Studies must be elected, this position
must be filled first. If a candidate nominated from the floor is elected, the candidate for
Director on the "slate" shall be added to the "slate" for Executive Committee membership. A
majority vote of the faculty present shall be required for election of the Director. If no
majority is obtained, a run-off vote between the two leading candidates will be taken.

All nominations for Executive Committee membership shall be voted on a single
ballot, each voting member voting for as many candidates as there are vacancies to be filled.
The candidates receiving the most votes shall be elected. In case of tie votes, a run-off
election shall be held. In such run-offs a plurality shall elect. A quorum for this and other
meetings shall consist of at least 1/2 of the faculty. In nominating candidates for the
Executive Committee, an effort should be made to represent the range of interests of the
GSEE faculty.

B. Responsibilities

The Director of Graduate Studies will represent the faculty to other individuals and
groups and has the responsibility and appropriate authority to act on all extramural affairs.
He/she will serve as the Chairperson of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will serve as the governing body for the GSEE faculty and
is responsible to that faculty at all times,

The Executive Committee should meet regularly. The Director of Graduate Studies
should appoint a secretary from among its members, It is the responsibility of the secretary
to prepare minutes of the Executive Committee meetings and to circulate these promptly to
all members of the GSEE.

The Executive Committee shall ensure the efficient day-to-day operation of the
training program. In this capacity it shall be responsible for such matters as:

1. Development of a curriculum for the GSEE.
2. Acting as Nominating Committee for the yearly election to membership on the
   Executive Committee.
3. Calling meetings of the faculty when necessary, but at least three times a year,
   including the April election meeting.
4. Operating a student advising system.
5. Continuous review and evaluation of the GSEE.
6. Running a seminar program.
7. Student evaluation, including the operation of examinations for the GSEE.
8. Administration of admissions and admissions policies.
9. Seeking adequate operational and student support funds.
10. Initiation of recommendations necessary for the development and maintenance of
    the GSEE, including recruitment of new faculty.
While the Executive Committee may routinely appoint whatever committees and take whatever actions are necessary for the operation of the program, it shall obtain the approval of the faculty for changes in policy which substantially affect the character of the GSEE.

**Termination of Membership in the GSEE**

Faculty shall be terminated from membership in the GSEE if they do not contribute to its purposes, as specified in the By-Laws. Faculty responsibilities to further the purposes of the GSEE include, for example, offering a graduate student seminar, presentation of a colloquium seminar, administration of examinations for the GSEE, participation on GSEE committees, etc. Failure to contribute may result from nonparticipation in the GSEE and from malfeasance in the execution of GSEE responsibilities.

A faculty member of the GSEE shall be identified by the Executive Committee as a potential non-participant if he/she does not serve on a committee, teach a seminar, or serve as a major advisor of a graduate student for three consecutive years. In such a case, this member’s continuance in the GSEE will be discussed at a GSEE meeting. A majority vote will be required to continue that individual’s membership in the GSEE.

A faculty member of the GSEE who is a participant of the GSEE may be terminated from the GSEE for malfeasance. Malfeasance is unsatisfactory performance of a responsibility as a faculty member. An accusation of malfeasance shall be submitted by the Executive Committee for consideration by the Judicial Committee. If a majority of the Judicial Committee feels the case is sufficiently serious, then the entire GSEE will convene and discuss the issue. A two-thirds vote of the GSEE faculty at the meeting is required to terminate membership in the GSEE.

**Amendment**

These By-Laws may be amended by the affirmative votes of at least three-fifths of the total GSEE faculty. Any proposal to amend these By-Laws must be circulated to the faculty at least two weeks before the meeting at which it is to be on the agenda. Voting shall be by secret ballot.

A meeting for the purposes of amendment of the By-Laws may be called either by the Executive Committee or by one-quarter of the faculty.

**By-Law Interpretation**

Members of the GSEE with the rank of Professor or its equivalent constitute the Judicial Committee empowered to decide whether an individual or collective action is in violation of these By-Laws.