

# **Bylaws of the Communication and Engagement Section of the Ecological Society of America**

*(formerly Science Communication Section)*

*Amended August 2017; submitted following a 30-day Section  
member comment period (no comments were received).*

*As voted upon and approved by a quorum of section members at the 2017 Section business meeting (during the 2017 annual ESA meeting in Portland, OR), we have made the following bylaw amendments to enhance the Section's management and strategic role the Section can play within ESA.*

- *Expanding the name of the section to fully reflect ESA-wide investment in both communication and engagement. The section's name will now be the Communication and Engagement Section.*
- *Clarifying that the Chairperson-elect becomes the Chairperson following the chair-elect serving one full one-year term as chair-elect.*
- *Clarifying that the Secretary serves a two-year term.*
- *Clarifying that the bylaws and other Section governance decisions can be made/amended by an email vote or a quorum of members at the Section's annual business meeting.*

## **BYLAWS**

Article 1. NAME. The official name of this Section shall be the "Communication and Engagement Section of the Ecological Society of America."

Article 2. OBJECTIVES. The objectives of this Section shall be to (1) promote and support the practice of traditional and emerging science communication and engagement approaches by ecologists and science communicators within ESA's membership; (2) sponsor science communication and engagement training opportunities for scientists, professional development activities for science communicators, and facilitate collaboration among members, sections, and committees through symposia, organized oral sessions, special sessions, and social events at the annual meeting and regionally; (3) support ESA's endeavors including but not limited to interdisciplinary initiatives, policy statements, regional and national conferences, and activities of the Public Affairs Office; (4) work with other sections (e.g. Student, Education, and Policy Sections) and 2 committees (e.g., Committee for Diversity and Education, Public Affairs Committee) to facilitate participation in science communication and engagement training and exploration of communication career opportunities; and (5) formalize and recognize a community of ESA members that have science communication and engagement experience. These members would be available for consultation with the Governing Board, ESA Sections and Chapters, Public Affairs, Science, and Education Offices, standing ESA committees, and ESA journal editorial boards. The Communication and Engagement Section shall be a subdivision of the Ecological Society of America and shall be governed in all of its operations by the Constitution and Bylaws of that Society.

Article 3. MEMBERSHIP. Any member of the Ecological Society of America may become a member of the Communication and Engagement Section upon payment of the designated dues. Article 4. OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS. The officers of the Section shall be a Chairperson, a Chairperson-Elect, and a Secretary. Any Section members nominated by email thirty days before the elections shall be

eligible for nomination as an officer. Officers will be selected by a majority of members voting via email when solicited by the executive committee of the Section.

Article 5. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON. The Chairperson shall preside at the business meeting of the Section, shall authorize expenditures of Section funds, and shall promote in every reasonable way the interests of the Section. The Chairperson shall serve for a term of one year, following service as the Chairperson-Elect. The Chairperson shall represent the Section on the Council of the Society, and shall appoint representatives to standing ESA committees, as well as appointing Section committees as required to promote the interests of the Section. Such committees shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Section and may be reappointed at the discretion of the Chairperson. The Chairperson may appoint a Webmaster.

Article 6. DUTIES OF THE CHAIRPERSON-ELECT. The Chairperson-Elect shall arrange the program for all meetings and activities of the Section, and shall assume the duties of the Chairperson whenever that person is unable to act. The Chairperson-Elect is to assume the position of the Chairperson after one year's duty, or in the event that the Chairperson is no longer able to perform their required duties. The Chairperson-Elect shall serve for a term of one year and shall then become the Chairperson.

Article 7. DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY. The Secretary shall keep the records of the Section, including a current membership and mailing list. The Secretary will communicate Section activities through an electronic newsletter. The Secretary shall serve for a term of two years, and shall be eligible for reelection. Article 8. FINANCES. Necessary expenses of the Section shall be paid from the treasury of the Society, but in no year shall the total expenses of the Section exceed the sum of the amount allotted for this purpose in the annual budget of the Society plus the amount, if any, collected as dues by the Society on behalf of the Section. No officer or member of the Section shall have authority to incur expenses in the name of the Society, except as specified above.

Article 9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. A Section Executive Committee, consisting of the officers of the Section, may act on behalf of the Section during intervals between annual meetings. Article 10. MEETINGS. The Section shall either meet with the Society at their annual meeting, or may organize Section meetings at other times and places at the call of the Executive Committee, or when requested by ten members of the Section. A business meeting of the Section shall be held at the annual meeting and the members present shall constitute a quorum. Notice of the annual meeting shall be given to each member of the Section at least sixty days in advance of the annual meeting, and it is understood that publication of a notice of the meeting in the Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America shall constitute adequate notice.

Article 11. AMENDMENTS. These Bylaws may be amended by either 1) a quorum of members at the Section's annual meeting, or b) a two-thirds vote of the members consulted by electronic means. Such amendments may be proposed, discussed, and voted on provided notice of the proposed amendment has been supplied to the members of the Section at least thirty days prior to consultation.

Article 12. SECTION REVIEW. The purpose of the Section should be reviewed and renewed every five years by two-thirds vote of those members present at any annual meeting of the Section, provided that notice has been given to all members sixty days in advance, or by a two-thirds vote in a ballot sent by email to all Section members.