

Grazing Livestock Systems Club

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

September 25, 2017

Constitution

ARTICLE I: Name

The name of the organization shall be the Grazing Livestock Systems Club, hereinafter referred to as the GLS Club.

ARTICLE II: Purpose

The GLS Club shall provide the framework for the academic, professional and social development of students in the Grazing Livestock Systems program and the development of external and internal professional networks. The GLS Club will also provide a forum for interaction and engagement among undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, faculty and external professionals. Through its activities, the GLS Club will increase the presence and visibility of the Grazing Livestock Systems program on campus.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1. Eligibility Requirements.

- A. Be a currently enrolled full or part-time student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).
- B. Be in good standing academically and meet the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources regulations for participation in extra-curricular activities.
- C. Embrace the fundamental principle that this organization does not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments when discrimination is defined as denying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of a person's race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its programs and activities.
- D. The GLS Club shall consist of at least five currently enrolled student members. Non-students will be allowed to participate in any student organization activity, but will not be a voting member, or an elected or appointed officer of said organization. A non-student is someone who is not currently enrolled at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall or spring semester.
- E. Be a currently enrolled graduate student or a graduate student in their final semester, a currently employed faculty member or emeriti or staff member at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Section 2: Types of Membership.

Membership categories will include:

- A. Undergraduate student
 - (1) Provisional Undergraduate. Students who do not meet eligibility requirements because of probationary status but have been recommended for provisional membership by their academic advisor and the GSL Club faculty advisor.
- B. Graduate student
- C. Courtesy staff (no membership dues, non-voting)
- D. Courtesy faculty (includes emeriti) (no membership dues, non-voting)

Section 3: Active Membership.

Members who meet eligibility requirements, regularly attend meetings, participate in GLS Club functions and have paid dues, where applicable, are considered active members with voting privileges.

Section 4: Methods of Revoking Membership.

- A. All student members shall follow the UNL Student Code of Conduct; all employees will comply with the applicable employee code of conduct; if any member(s) do not comply with the applicable code of conduct, then an appointed committee shall revoke membership until further review.
- B. Revoking membership will occur by appointed committee or by recommendation of the advisor, president and vice president.

ARTICLE IV: Officers

Section 1. Club Officers.

- A. The Officers of the GLS Club shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. All undergraduate students meeting the eligibility requirements who are active members are eligible to hold office in the organization.
- C. A new officer position may be created when necessary by GLS Club approval.

Section 2. Election of Officers.

All RSOs must be categorized as a Fall, Winter, or Spring Organization with ASUN and Student Involvement. RSO officers must take office on one of the following dates: On the first day classes commence fall semester (Fall Organization), the first day classes commence spring semester (Winter Organization), or the second Tuesday of April (Spring Organization). All paperwork will be filed at those times to remain in compliance. The GLS Club will be a spring organization.

The GLS Club, at its initial meeting, shall nominate candidates for each of the offices listed in Section 1. After the initial meeting of the GLS Club, officer elections will occur in the spring semester, generally by April 1 preceding the annual mid-April CASNR RSO Training meeting. The officers will take office on the second Tuesday of April.

- A. A nominee shall be allowed to speak to and respond to questions from the GLS Club members without the presence of other nominees for the same office immediately prior to the vote to fill that office.
- B. Votes shall be cast using a secret voting system without the presence of the nominees for the respective office. A nominee shall be elected should he/she receive the greatest amount of favorable votes out of all candidates.
- C. Each officer shall serve a one-year term (Second Tuesday in April – Second Monday in April).
- D. Individuals can serve multiple terms.

Section 3. Duties of Officers.

- A. The President shall be the executive officer of the GLS Club; call, organize and chair meetings; represent the organization as necessary; provide leadership for the organization; appoint committees with the approval of the Executive Committee; and shall have the power to call special meetings of the GLS Club with 24 hours' notice. The President shall attend the CASNR RSO Training meeting in the Spring semester.
- B. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of that officer and shall act as the coordinator of all committees; serve as the primary programmer for the GLS Club; serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the committees; and assume delegated duties that the President assigns.
- C. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of meeting attendance, keep and report minutes of meetings and distribute copies to members, advisors, and the sponsoring Center for Grassland Studies Office. The Secretary is also responsible for all correspondence, filing and maintaining GLS Club records in the Center for Grassland Studies.
- D. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all funds processed by the GLS Club. He/she will also be responsible for preparing an annual budget that is submitted to the Center for Grassland Studies Office for approval of requested funding, if appropriate, by September 1st each year. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining the organization's financial bookkeeping and attending Treasurer Training, serve as the organization's liaison to Student Activities Financial Services, prepare financial reports, and collect and disburse funds as directed by the President. The Treasurer shall attend the CASNR RSO Training meeting in the Spring semester.
- E. Each Officer will submit a year-end report to the President on or before April 1. The President is responsible for submitting a year-end report on GLS Club

activities to the Center for Grassland Studies Office by April 15 of each academic year, which will become part of the permanent GLS Club file maintained in the Center for Grassland Studies Office (Keim 203) and will serve as the basis for the GLS Club submission to the CASNR Annual Report.

Section 4. Procedure to Fill Vacancies.

In the event of an elected office vacancy, a special election may be called by the Executive Committee at any regular meeting to fill the position of the vacated office.

Section 5. Impeachment of Officer.

Impeachment proceedings against an officer(s) shall commence with presentation of a petition signed by 55% of the current, active membership. A hearing on the impeachment shall be called at the next regular meeting. Arguments for impeachments shall be related to the purposes of the organization and the duties and responsibilities of the office. The officer(s) shall be given an opportunity to present their case at the hearing on impeachment. The faculty/staff advisor will chair the hearing and supervise the vote.

ARTICLE V: Organizational Structure

Section 1: Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will consist of the Advisor(s), President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Duties will include:

- (1) Making decisions on behalf of the membership that do not require formal action by the membership and, because of time constraints, cannot be brought before the membership;
- (2) Organizing the coordinating activities and events;
- (3) Completing tasks as directed by the membership; and
- (4) Identifying challenges and opportunities for the GLS Club and making recommendations to the membership.

Section 2: Other Committees and Duties.

- A. Committee chairpersons shall serve a one-year term. No members shall hold more than one committee chair, unless there are insufficient members to share the responsibility. Duties include:
 - (1) To provide leadership and to be accountable for the proper operation of the committee,

- (2) To delegate various functions of the committees to its members, and
- (3) To report to the Vice President on committee operations.
- B. Listing of Standing Committees and duties:
 - (1) Event Planning Committee
 - Senior and Junior Co-Chairs: Responsible for planning events that the club would like to host. Junior Co-Chair rotates to Senior Co-Chair.
 - (2) Recruitment Committee
 - Senior and Junior Co-Chairs: Responsible for attending recruitment events and assisting in recruiting for the club. Junior Co-Chair rotates to Senior Co-Chair.
- C. Select Committees are temporary and can be created for a specific purpose as needed by approval of the voting membership. Select Committees are dissolved when the purpose for which they were created is completed.

ARTICLE VI: Advisors

Section 1: Advisors.

This organization shall have one Primary Advisor, which must be a regular Academic/Administrative or Managerial/Professional faculty/staff member of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and may have any number of Secondary Advisors, which may be regular Academic/Administrative, Managerial/Professional, or Office/Service staff members or Graduate Assistants of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Section 2: Method of Selection.

Advisors are nominated by active GLS Club members and selected by the vote of the active club members.

Section 3: Length of Term.

The term of office for advisors shall be for two years with no limit on terms of succession.

ARTICLE VII: Rules of Procedure

Section 1. Policy of Absences.

Members are expected to regularly attend meetings to maintain active status.

Section 2. Frequency.

Regular meetings of the GLS Club shall be held twice a month, or as needed, during the school year at a time and place determined by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Quorum.

A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4. Minutes.

The minutes from the meeting shall be made available by the Secretary to the GLS Club membership after each meeting. Corrections to the minutes shall be made at the beginning of the next meeting and subsequently posted to the GLS Club website hosted by the Center for Grassland Studies.

Section 5. Procedures.

The procedures used during the meeting and in the organization of the GLS Club shall follow Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE VIII: Finance

Section 1: Dues.

Membership dues will be collected annually. The dues shall be recommended at the beginning of each fall semester by the Executive Committee and approved by the active members at the first meeting.

Section 2: Alternate Funding.

Alternate funding shall be secured through proposals, fundraisers and donations.

Section 3. Monetary Handling.

As an RSO, the GLS Club shall operate according to the rules and guidelines of a non-profit entity. No part of the organization's net earnings will inure to the benefit of individuals. The RSO must establish that it will not be organized or operated for the benefit of private interests, such as the creator or the creator's family, shareholders of the organization, other designated individuals, or persons controlled directly or indirectly by such private interests. The RSO shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose set forth in this document.

The organization will not, as a substantial part of its activities, attempt to influence legislation (unless it elects to come under the provisions allowing certain lobbying expenditures) or participate to any extent in a political campaign for or against any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this constitution the RSO shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt Federal Income Tax under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue laws). Organizational

monies will be handled by Student Organizational Financial Services, regardless of source.

ARTICLE IX: Adoption and Amendments

Section 1. Adoption.

- A. This constitution must be approved by ASUN.
- B. After the constitution/amendment receives the approval of the ASUN Student Services Committee, the constitution will become an officially recognized document of the GLS Club.

Section 2. Amendments.

Proposed amendments to this constitution must be presented to the GLS Club membership at least one meeting prior to a vote to allow adequate discussion. Amendments must be approved at the next regular meeting of the GLS Club by a three-fourths majority of the voting members. All amendments must be approved by ASUN.

ARTICLE X: Distribution of Finances/Proper Business Activity

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, officers, trustees, advisors, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the RSO shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

ARTICLE XI: Processes for Dissolution

Section 1. Decision to Dissolve.

Dissolution of the GSL Club by consent of the members shall consist of unanimous agreement of all its officers together with a majority vote at a

meeting which has been publicized in advance to all members of the Chapter for the purpose of taking this vote.

Section 2. Disposal of Assets.

Upon the dissolution of the RSO the officers and advisors shall after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the RSO, dispose of all the assets of RSO exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purpose as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization. Under section 501C of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), as the officers and advisors shall determine. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, exclusively for such purposes to such organization(s), as determined by the Office of Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs.

ARTICLE XII: Non-discrimination Clause

This organization does not discriminate in the selection of members or appointments when discrimination is defined as denying individuals membership or appointment on the basis of gender, age, disability, genetic information, race, color, religion, pregnancy, marital status, veteran's status, national or ethnic origin, gender identity or expression, place of residence, political affiliation, or sexual orientation

This constitution shall go into effect September 25, 2017.

Executive Approval

- o President Alefa Johnson Date 9-25-17
- o Treasurer Taylor Judeman Date 10/3/17