

WEAO Student Chapters

Frequently Asked Questions for Faculty Leads

Q: WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A WEAO STUDENT CHAPTER?

The purpose of the Student Chapter is to promote student interest in the water environment through activities. It also helps to develop future professionals by giving them early access to the water environment profession and exposure to WEAO and WEF as a whole.

Q: WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO START A CHAPTER?

Either a student or faculty member may be interested in starting a chapter. Their first step is to contact the WEAO New Professionals (NP) committee through their website at http://www.weao.org/committees/New_professionals/New_professionals.html. The NP committee chair will assign you a liaison who will help guide you through the process of forming a chapter. There are also many useful resources found in a Starter Kit that can be provided to you.

Q: WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES MIGHT A CHAPTER RUN?

Examples might include guest speakers, facility tours, presentation of student projects, or participation in WEAO technical and networking events. As a Faculty Advisor, your contacts in the local water environment profession will be important to the student officers. However, the student members of the Chapter should be taking the lead in organizing events.

Q: DO I NEED TO BE A MEMBER OF WEAO AND WEF?

WEAO's constitution does require that the Faculty Advisor be a member in good standing of WEAO, which is a member organization of the Water Environment Federation. A membership application is found on the WEAO website or in the Starter Kit.

Q: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE FACULTY ADVISOR?

The Faculty Advisor's role is to provide guidance to the officers. In the event that membership is not sufficient to form a chapter, the Faculty Advisor is encouraged to help recruit new members. It is important that this remains a student-led activity. The Advisor's role is as a mentor to the student leadership.

Q: IS A CHAPTER REQUIRED TO HAVE SUPPORT FROM THE SCHOOL?

Strictly speaking, a chapter need not have the support of the school. The only requirement is that a Faculty Advisor be a Professor at the University or College. In practice, we encourage that the school be engaged, either through an academic program or student association, to assist with funding and recruitment. There are many great resources in a school, from which students could benefit – funding, role models, meeting space, labs and audio-visual technology.

Q: HOW DO I RECRUIT POTENTIAL MEMBERS?

Your Student Lead should be taking the lead on recruitment, unless a previously formed chapter does not have an executive due to insufficient membership. In this case, part of your role as Faculty Advisor is to take a more active role in recruiting new members.

Q: HOW DO I JOIN, AND HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

In 2007, membership in WEAO costs US\$60 annually. You can join WEAO through the website at <http://www.weao.org/membership/membership.html>. Note: the student membership is only US\$20 annually through <http://www.wef.org/AboutWater/ForStudents/UniversityCenter/>.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING NEW PROFESSIONALS AT YOUR SCHOOL!