

WEAO Student Chapters

Frequently Asked Questions for Student 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.

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 available in a Chapter Starter Kit available through WEAO.

Q: WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES MIGHT A CHAPTER RUN?

Any activity which promotes awareness of the water environment or develops water environment professionals through networking or education is great! Examples might include guest speakers, facility tours, presentation of student projects, or participation in WEAO technical and networking events.

Q: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN MEMBERSHIP TYPES?

- Official Members. Any person, who is a member of the University or College Community, defined as undergraduate students, graduate students, staff, faculty, and alumni of the University or College. They have voting rights and may be officers of the chapter.
- Official Student Members. Any undergraduate or graduate student officially registered as a full-time student at the University or College. They have voting rights and may be officers.
- Unofficial Student Members. Any person who is not an Official member or an Official Student Member. They may participate in chapter meetings and activities. Official Members and Official Student Members should consider becoming Student Members of WEAO to gain full access to resources and networking opportunities.

Q: HOW MANY MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED TO FORM A CHAPTER?

A minimum of five (5) Official Student Members is required for the chapter to be approved by the WEAO Board. From these members, a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer are elected as officers. You must also have a Faculty Advisor who is an Official Member.

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

Student membership in WEF costs US\$20 per year, and is payable directly to WEF. Students join WEAO through WEF at: <http://www.wef.org/AboutWater/ForStudents/UniversityCenter/>.

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.

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

Most Faculties of Engineering, Environmental Engineering Programs, Student Unions, or other similar bodies support formation of student chapters, and may be able to provide financial support or facilities. However, strictly speaking, a chapter need not have the support of the school.

Q: HOW DO I RECRUIT POTENTIAL MEMBERS?

A Student Lead and a Faculty Lead can work together to recruit new members of the chapter. Techniques to build interest in the first meeting might include presentations to environmental engineering and environmental science classes, mass e-mails, posters, word-of-mouth, and even Facebook groups. Experience is usually that posters on their own are not enough.