

Constitution of *The Proof Society*

10/07/2023

1. *Name*. The name of the society shall be **The Proof Society**, which shall be abbreviated as **PS**.
2. *Context*. The mathematical study of proofs emerged in the prominent program by David Hilbert who coined the term *Beweistheorie* (Proof Theory). In the course of the XXth century, Proof Theory reached the status of one of the cornerstones of modern logic. Later, formal methods that originated in mathematical logic and in proof theory itself have witnessed a tremendous growth in applications. Proofs have also influenced other areas previously not prone to formal analysis, be it formal epistemology, logic in law, or applications to artificial intelligence. All these exciting developments have led to a much more varied landscape of research around the notion of proof than the world had previously seen and have led to a rapid diversification of the field. The need for forming *The Proof Society* emerged, and first steps to its initialisation were taken at the end of 2017.
3. *Objects*. The object of the Society shall be
 - a. to support the notion of *proof* in its broadest sense, through a series of suitable activities;
 - b. to be therefore inclusive in reaching out to all scientific areas which consider *proofs* as an object in their studies;
 - c. to enable the community to shape its future by identifying, formulating and communicating its most important goals;
 - d. to actively promote *proofs* to increase its visibility and representation.
4. *Membership*. Membership shall be open to all persons who support the objects of the Society; provided that persons whose membership has been terminated under Article 13 may only be re-admitted to membership with the approval of the Committee (see Article 6). In the following a person of the membership is referred to as a member.
5. *Officers*. The Society shall have a president, a vice-president, and a secretary, and any other officers which the committee, as defined in Article 6, shall decide.
6. *Committee*. There shall be a committee of seven full members, consisting of the president, the vice-president, the secretary, and four other full members.

Subject to the constitution and to any resolutions passed by the membership under Article 12 below, the committee shall be responsible for running the Society, and for making decisions on behalf of the Society. It may appoint sub-committees, and co-opt members to the committee who shall not have the right to vote.

The quorum for decisions of the committee shall be one-half of the full members.
7. *Elections*. The president, vice-president, secretary, and other full members of the committee shall be elected by a ballot of the members. The procedure for nomination and voting shall be as follows.
 - a. The committee, or any two members, may nominate any member or members for any vacancies for which an election is to be held. The committee may require the consent of any nominee in writing.

- b. Before any election, the committee shall set a final date for nominations (normally 31st October), giving at least three weeks' notice of that date to the members.
- c. If more than one nomination is received for any vacancy, a ballot containing all such nominations shall be sent to each member, giving at least two weeks' notice of the date by which they must be returned (normally 30th November). The committee shall communicate to members the results of the ballot.
- d. Full members of the committee shall be elected for a term not exceeding three years. If the place of any full member of the committee shall fall vacant before his or her term of election has expired, an election shall be held within twelve months to fill the remainder of the term only.

9. *Report.* The committee shall circulate an annual report to the members.

11. Recall.

- a. Any officer, committee member, or member appointed by the committee in any capacity, may be removed from that office or appointment by a recall motion approved by two-thirds of the members voting. Such a recall shall be held if the committee decides, or within 60 days of the receipt by the secretary of a request signed by ten members of the Society. The vote shall be done by a ballot of the members, giving at least two weeks' notice of the date by which ballots must be returned.
- b. A member appointed to any position by the committee may be removed from the position by a vote of not less than five full members of the committee.

12. *Changes and Membership Decisions.* Resolutions binding on the Society and the committee, including constitutional amendments, may only be made by a ballot of the members and shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting. At least two weeks shall be allowed for the return of ballots.

Any resolution supported by the signatures of ten members must be put to the members within 60 days.

13. Expulsion. The committee shall terminate the membership of any person who, in its opinion, is opposing or hindering the objects or working of the Society; provided that such a person shall have the right to attend and be heard by the committee before such a decision is taken. Such a person shall only be re-admitted to membership with the approval of the committee.

14. *Notice to Members.* In determining the period of notice which has been given to members by the committee on any matter, the date on which the communication was sent shall be used.

15. *Communication.* All communications with members shall be done via email. Voting shall be done via appropriate electronic means (e.g. email or website).

First Instantiation, February 2023.

Final Version, submitted to vote, July 2023