



COMPUTATIONAL COMPLEXITY FOUNDATION

Minutes of the Continuous Board Meeting 2020-2021

Members: Venkatesan Guruswami (President), Pierre McKenzie (Treasurer), Ashwin Nayak (Secretary), Ronen Shaltiel (Registration Chair), Ryan Williams (Awards Chair), Michal Koucký (Budget Chair), Meena Mahajan (Paper Chair), Shachar Lovett (Past Treasurer), Rahul Santhanam (Past Paper Chair)

Chair: the President.

Scribe: the Secretary. Approved by the board.

- **Appointment:**
Anindya De signs the CCF conflict of interest statement on August 11, 2020, and is confirmed as the chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for CCC 2022.
- **Motion:**
The proceedings of the 2020 Business Meeting are approved.
 - Moved by the Secretary on Sep. 24, 2020
 - Adopted by unanimous consent on Oct. 1, 2020
- **Closing:**
On Oct. 1, 2020, the books for CCC'20 are closed with a deficit of \$1,124, resulting from a registration income of \$3,800 and conference expenses of \$4,924.
- **Motion:**
The minutes of the 2020 Annual Board Meeting are approved.
 - Moved by the Secretary on Oct. 6, 2020
 - Adopted by unanimous consent on Oct. 13, 2020
- **Motion:**
Due to the continuing Covid-19 situation and associated travel and health restrictions, CCC 2021 will not take place as a physical conference at Toronto between July 20-23 as originally planned. Instead the conference will be held in a virtual online format during a subset of those days. The exact specifics of the conference format, and adjustments to

the budget and registration fees, will be decided after further discussions (and possibly a vote) within the board. The local arrangements team led by Benjamin Rossman will continue to help with the planning and execution of the conference in the online format.

- Moved by the President on Feb. 10, 2021.
 - Passed with 7 votes in favour on Feb. 12, 2021.
- Motion:
The Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures of CCF shall be amended as described in the appendix.
 - Moved by the President on Feb. 10, 2021.
 - Passed unanimously on Feb. 17, 2021.
 - Two members suggested consulting a lawyer about the amendment.
- Appointment:
 - Eight candidates, including Shachar Lovett (a board member), were nominated for the position of the Program Committee Chair for CCC'22. Shachar Lovett recused himself from the deliberations of the Board due to the conflict of interest. The candidates were ranked by the rest of the Board through an anonymous vote, and Shachar Lovett was ranked the highest.
 - On Mar. 15, 2021, the Board approved Shachar Lovett as the Program Committee Chair for CCC'22.
 - Shachar Lovett signed the Conduct Statement and the appointment took effect on Mar. 17, 2021.
- Motion:
A budget of \$4,743 for CCC'21 was approved.
 - Moved by the President on May 8, 2021.
 - Passed unanimously on May 15, 2021.
- Appointment:
 - On May 25, 2021, the Board approved Valentine Kabanets as the next CCF president.
 - Valentine Kabanets signed the conduct statement on June 15, 2021, and the appointment will take effect after the Board meeting at CCC'21.
- Appointment:
 - On May 25, 2021, the Board approved Amit Chakrabarti as the next CCF secretary.
 - Amit Chakrabarti signed the conduct statement on May 28, 2021, and the appointment will take effect after the Board meeting at CCC'21.
- Election:
 - On July 19, 2021, the members of CCF elected Nutan Limaye as the next CCF registration chair.

- Nutan Limaye signed the conduct statement on July 22, 2021, and will assume office after the Board meeting at CCC'21.

Appendix

Changes to the Policies and Procedures:

1. Article X - Section 2 → Article X - Section 5: conflict-of-interest statement → conduct statement.
2. Article VIII - Section 4: An author of a paper submitted to the conference may declare a conflict of interest with one or more individuals by writing to the PC chair. The PC chair will ensure that the individuals with a conflict do not participate in the evaluation of the submission, but will otherwise hold the information in confidence.
3. Article X - Section 5: PC and LAC members (other than the chairs of these committees) will make the following Conduct Statement to the PC chair or the LAC chair, as appropriate, at the time they agree to serve on the respective committee:

I understand the code of conduct of the Computational Complexity Foundation Inc., especially the provision about conflicts of interest, and shall abide by these provisions.
4. Article VIII - Section 4: The PC chair will remind the PC members of the code of conduct when the deliberations of the committee begins.
5. Article VII - Section 3: The LAC chair will remind the LAC members of the code of conduct at the beginning of the conference.
6. Article VI - Section 3: An abridged version of the CCF code of conduct will be included on the registration form, and participants at the conference will be required to agree to the code at the time of registration.

Changes to the bylaws

Delete the following paragraph from Article VI - Conference, Section 3 - Operation:

The open exchange of ideas and the freedom of thought and expression are central to the aims and goals of the Foundation. These require an environment that recognizes the inherent worth of every person and group, that fosters dignity, understanding, and mutual respect, and that embraces diversity. In particular, the Board is committed to providing an environment at the Conference that is free of discrimination and harassment, and expects all participants to honor that commitment.

Replace Article X - Conflicts of Interest by the following:

Article X - Code of Conduct

For the purposes of this Article, an “agent of the Foundation” is a person as defined in Article XI. All agents and members of the Foundation, and participants in an activity of the Foundation are expected to abide by the code of conduct in this Article. No violation of the code has the sanction of the Foundation, and the Foundation assumes no liability or responsibility for the actions of any individual.

Section 1 - Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

The open exchange of ideas and the freedom of thought and expression are central to the aims and goals of the Foundation. These require an environment that recognizes the inherent worth of every person and group, that fosters dignity, understanding, and mutual respect, and that embraces diversity. In particular, the Board shall strive to provide an environment for all activities of the Foundation, especially at the Conference, that is free of discrimination and harassment, and expects all participants to honor that commitment.

The Board shall promote the principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion in its own composition, as well as that of the other bodies of the Foundation, including the Program Committee and Local Arrangements Committee.

Section 2 - Ethical and Professional Conduct

The agents of the Foundation are expected to conduct themselves with honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility, together with the courage to act upon them. The agents are expected to respect privacy when access to personal information is available, honour confidentiality when entrusted with confidential information, avoid conflict of interest, and comply with all applicable laws. The Board is committed to supporting and defending academic freedom while adhering to the principles described in this Article.

Section 3 - Conflict of Interest

Whenever a member of a body of the Foundation has a financial or personal interest in any matter coming before that body, the member shall (a) fully disclose the nature of the interest and (b) withdraw from discussion, lobbying, and voting on the matter. Any transaction or vote involving a potential conflict of interest shall be approved only when a majority of disinterested members of the body determine that it is in the best interest of the Foundation to do so. The minutes of meetings at which such votes are taken shall record such disclosure, abstention, and rationale for approval.

Section 4 - Harassment-free environment

The Board shall strive to provide a safe, welcoming environment for all participants at all activities of the Foundation, and especially at the Conference. No form of abuse or harassment, including discriminatory or sexual harassment, is acceptable. Participants are expected to be considerate and respectful, mindful of their surroundings and fellow participants, and to alert appropriate authorities if they notice a troubling situation.

Section 5 - Statement

A Conduct Statement shall read as follows:

I, the undersigned, have read the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures of the Computational Complexity Foundation Inc. I understand the code of conduct, especially the provision about conflicts of interest, and shall abide by these provisions.

All trustees, officers, chairs of standing and special committees of the Board, chairs of the Local Arrangements Committee, and chairs of the Program Committee are required to make this declaration.

Section 6 - Reporting grievances and response

An individual who experiences harassment or any other threat to personal safety should take immediate action if needed to remain safe. Participants in an activity of the Foundation may report unacceptable behaviour to a member of the Board. Any investigation or further action requires that a written communication be made. The Board reserves the right to take any action the Board deems appropriate in case of a violation of this code of conduct.

Replace "conflict-of-interest statement" by "conduct statement" everywhere in the bylaws.

This occurs mostly in the context of new appointments made by the board and officers elected by CCF members.