

The Committee on Stochastic Programming

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

ARTICLE 1 – Names

This organization shall be named the Committee on Stochastic Programming (COSP).

ARTICLE 2 – Terms

In addition to COSP, these bylaws reference the “Stochastic Programming (SP) Community,” the “COSP email list,” the “SP Community Home Page” (<http://stoprog.org>), and the “International Conference on Stochastic Programming” (ICSP). The SP Community refers to the informal worldwide group of researchers who are developing optimization-based models, methods, and theory for making decisions under uncertainty. The COSP email list is open to all members of the SP Community. The SP Community Home Page is a web page maintained by COSP. The ICSP is discussed in Article 10. These bylaws refer to the countries (and continents) of residence of certain individuals; these are to be determined by the individual’s country (continent) of permanent residence.

ARTICLE 3 – Purpose and Existence

COSP serves the SP Community by promoting the development and application of stochastic programming theory, models, methods, analysis, software tools and standards, and by encouraging the exchange of information among practitioners and scholars in the area of stochastic programming. COSP exists as a Technical Section of the Mathematical Optimization Society (MOS) and will abide by the MOS bylaws for Technical Sections. COSP also serves as a liaison to related professional societies to promote stochastic programming.

ARTICLE 4 – Membership

COSP shall consist of at least eight members, including its officers. Membership on the committee is restricted to at most four members from any one continent (or country).

New members of COSP are nominated and elected as detailed in Article 7. COSP shall include either one or two organizers of the forthcoming ICSP. The new COSP Chair shall appoint these members in the case that they are not already on COSP by election.

ARTICLE 5 – Officers

- a) The officers of COSP shall consist of a Chair and a Secretary.
- b) The SP Community, as detailed in Article 8, shall elect the COSP Chair.
- c) The Chair shall appoint the Secretary.
- d) The Chair and Secretary should reside on different continents.
- e) The Chair shall be the chief administrative officer of COSP. He/she shall (i) call and organize meetings of COSP, (ii) appoint ad hoc committees as required, (iii) manage the affairs of COSP between meetings, (iv) preside at COSP Business Meetings, (v) attend and represent COSP and the SP Community at Council Meetings at the triennial International Symposium on Mathematical Programming (ISMP), and (vi) appoint the Webmaster, who need not be a member of COSP but shall work with COSP to maintain the SP Community Home Page.
- f) The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records of COSP, work with the Chair to conduct the affairs of COSP, and manage elections and voting procedures at COSP Business Meetings.

ARTICLE 6 – COSP Business Meetings and COSP Organizational Meetings

- a) COSP Business Meetings shall take place at each ICSP. It is suggested that a meeting also take place at the triennial ISMP. Both meetings shall be open to all registered conference participants.
- b) COSP Organizational Meetings may be organized on an as-needed basis. In all such meetings, at least 50% of COSP members shall constitute a quorum. COSP members who are unable to attend a meeting may vote by proxy, where the proxy is named by the absent COSP member and validated by the Chair. As long as the meeting agenda, including items to be voted upon, are distributed to COSP members at least two weeks prior to the meeting, proxy votes may be applied toward the quorum.

ARTICLE 7 – Tenure, Nomination, and Election of COSP Members

- a) Tenure: COSP members shall hold at most two consecutive 3-year terms. An exception is made for at most one conference organizer. Here, a 3-year term is understood to mean the period between consecutive ICSPs.
- b) Nomination: The Chair shall solicit nominations for COSP members through the COSP email list, at least one month prior to the ICSP. With the exception of retiring COSP members who have just served two consecutive terms, any member of the SP Community may be so nominated.

- c) Election: All registered conference participants who have not registered as “students” or “guests,” and who attend the COSP Business Meeting may vote in the election of COSP members. Each voter may vote for up to n new COSP members from the slate of nominees who have accepted nomination, where n is the number being elected. Positions will be filled by the nominees receiving the most votes, subject to the restrictions outlined in Article 4, until all positions are filled. Ties shall be broken by an appropriate game of chance. All votes are by secret ballot.
- d) Initiation of terms: The terms for the new COSP members shall begin at the close of the ICSP at which they were elected.
- e) Vacancies: COSP member vacancies that occur between elections may be filled by majority vote of COSP. For such COSP members, their partial terms shall not count against the term limits of Article 7.a.
- f) Dismissals: A COSP member may be dismissed from the committee between elections by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of COSP. Such removal is only to be undertaken due to either: (i) an inability of that person to perform the duties of the position, e.g., due to death, prolonged sickness, or lack of communication with COSP for a prolonged period of his/her term or (ii) demonstrated and chronic failure of that person to perform the duties of his/her position.

ARTICLE 8 – Tenure, Nomination, and Election of the COSP Chair

- a) Tenure: The Chair shall hold a 3-year term.
- b) Nomination: The outgoing Chair shall solicit nominations for the next COSP Chair through the COSP email list, at least one month prior to the ICSP. With the exception of an outgoing Chair who has completed a full term, any member of the SP Community may be so nominated. To persist as a nominee for the COSP Chair, nominees who are not members of COSP must first be elected according to the process defined in Article 7. In the event no such nominees remain after the election of COSP members, further nominations from the newly formed COSP may be sought at the COSP Business Meeting.
- c) Election: Election of the COSP Chair shall follow election of the COSP members as detailed in Article 7. All registered conference participants who have not registered as “students” or “guests,” and who attend the COSP Business Meeting may vote in the election of the COSP Chair. The nominee receiving the majority of cast votes shall be the elected Chair. If a majority is not achieved, the nominee receiving the least votes is eliminated from consideration and the process repeated until a majority is obtained. Further ties shall be broken by a game of chance. All votes are by secret ballot.
- d) Initiation of term: The term for the new COSP Chair shall begin at the close of the ICSP at which he/she was elected.
- e) Vacancies: A COSP Chair that is vacated between elections may be filled by majority vote of COSP. Such a Chair, not having served a full term, is eligible for nomination as Chair at the following ICSP.

- f) Dismissals: The COSP Chair may be dismissed from the committee between elections by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of COSP. Such removal is only to be undertaken due to either: (i) an inability of that person to perform the duties of the position, e.g., due to death, prolonged sickness, or lack of communication with COSP for a prolonged period of his/her term or (ii) demonstrated and chronic failure of that person to perform the duties of his/her position.

ARTICLE 9 – Committees

The Chair, with the approval of COSP, shall establish committees and appoint members and a chairperson as needed to carry out the business of COSP. Such committees may consist of both COSP and non-COSP members but should include at least one COSP member. One such committee is the Conference Site Advisory Committee, discussed further in Article 10.

ARTICLE 10 – The International Conference on Stochastic Programming

10.1 The ICSP shall be held every three years, being in the year after the triennial ISMP and is to be a scientific conference.

10.2 At least one year prior to the n -th ICSP, the Chair shall appoint a three-person Conference Site Advisory Committee (CSAC). The COSP Chair shall not be a member of CSAC.

10.3 The CSAC shall solicit candidates to organize the $n+1$ -st ICSP. To the fullest extent possible and practicable, proposals should be solicited in such a manner to ensure:

- a) consecutive ICSPs are not held on the same continent;
- b) members of the CSAC do not propose hosting the ICSP under consideration; and,
- c) the solicitation is public, e.g., including an announcement via the COSP email list.

10.4 The CSAC shall select one or more candidate sites to be presented to COSP and to those at the COSP Business Meeting. Selected candidates will present their proposal at the COSP Business Meeting held during the ICSP. CSAC shall lead a discussion among all present at the Business Meeting on the same topic. The site for the $n+1$ -st ICSP shall be decided by a majority vote of the union of the COSP and CSAC members, excluding any site proposers. The vote shall take place in a COSP Organizational Meeting after the Business Meeting but prior to the end of the ICSP. If none of the proposals receives a majority of the cast votes in the first round of voting, run-offs shall be held as follows:

- a) If there are two proposals remaining and the vote is tied, the tie shall be broken by a vote of the three-person CSAC. If that vote results in a tie, the COSP Chair shall make the selection.
- b) If there are three or more proposals, the proposal receiving the fewest votes will be eliminated from further consideration, and another vote will be taken. If none

of the remaining proposals receives a majority of the cast votes, repeat from 10.4.a

All votes are by secret ballot.

ARTICLE 11 – Endorsements

COSP may be requested to endorse events such as scholarly conferences and workshops. The decision to extend COSP endorsement shall be made by a majority vote of the COSP members. In the event of a tie, the Chair shall make the decision. As a guideline, if such an event is to receive COSP endorsement, the event should include at least one major lecture (e.g., keynote, plenary, or semi-plenary) in some area of stochastic programming, and at least one session should be devoted to stochastic programming.

ARTICLE 12 – COSP Student Paper Prize

- a) The COSP Student Paper Prize will normally be given every three years in recognition of the most outstanding student-authored paper on Stochastic Programming, as judged by a panel of experts (the COSP Student Paper Prize Committee) appointed by COSP.
- b) The prize will normally be awarded at each triennial ISP meeting starting 2010.
- c) The ICSP committee for the year that the prize is awarded will be responsible for obtaining financial support for the prize which will consist of a plaque and an honorarium.
- d) COSP will announce the opening of the competition and a COSP Student Paper Prize Committee at the beginning of the calendar year in which the ICSP conference will be held.
- e) The COSP Student Paper Prize Committee will consist of at least 3 members selected by COSP, and will be responsible for setting deadlines, soliciting entries for the prize, judging of the submitted papers, and communicating the results to COSP at least two months prior to the ICSP where the prize is being awarded. For continuity, normally one committee member will serve on two consecutive prize committees. The membership of the committee should attempt to reflect the international character of the SP Community. Committee members may not participate in the judging or discussion for any entry for which they are a co-author, or for which they are the principal adviser for the student entrant.
- f) Each entry must satisfy the following eligibility criteria:
 - i. The paper must present original research results.
 - ii. The entrant must have been a student within the previous 3 years of the year of the prize.
 - iii. The research must have been conducted while the entrant was a student.
 - iv. The paper must have been published in (or submitted to) an English language journal.
 - v. The paper must be written by the entrant with only minor outside assistance. One or more advisors may appear as co-authors of a paper, but the student must be the 'first author'.
 - vi. The entrant can be a (co-)author in at most one paper submitted to the competition.
 - vii. The paper must not have won a previous COSP Student Paper Award.

- g) Entrants must submit to the COSP Student Paper Prize Committee Chair before the deadline the following:
 - i. An electronic copy (a Postscript or Pdf file) of the paper.
 - ii. The publication information for the work. If paper is still under review, state the name of the journal and point in the review process).
 - iii. An email address and phone number where the entrant can be contacted in the event the entrant is selected as a finalist.
 - iv. A letter signed by both faculty advisor and the entrant attesting that the eligibility conditions are met.
- h) Judgment criteria: The winning paper will be judged on the following criteria:
 - i. Magnitude of the contribution to the advancement of the field of stochastic programming;
 - ii. Originality of ideas and methods;
 - iii. Clarity and excellence of exposition.
- i) The COSP Student Paper Prize Committee may decide not to award the prize to any of the entrants of the competition.

ARTICLE 13 – Amendments

Proposed amendments to this Constitution may be initiated by the action of COSP or the SP Community. A proposed amendment must be endorsed by at least three members of the SP Community. The Secretary shall distribute proposed amendments at least two weeks prior to the COSP Business Meeting via the COSP email list. Adoption of the amendment at the COSP Business meeting shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of all registered conference participants who are not registered as “students” or “guests,” and who attend the COSP Business Meeting.

ADOPTION

The Constitution and Bylaws were adopted 12 October 2004 by a unanimous vote of those at the COSP Business Meeting at the 10th International Conference on Stochastic Programming in Tucson, Arizona. Amendments to the bylaws were made after adoption by a unanimous vote at the COSP Business Meeting at the 12th International Conference on Stochastic Programming in Halifax, Canada.