

ByLaws

IA-FraMCoS

International Association of Fracture Mechanics for Concrete and Concrete Structures

The following by-laws were approved by the BoD on April 28, 2016. They still need approval by the Members/General Assembly.

Mission

To address fundamental developments in concrete and cementitious materials, to foster within the scientific and the engineering community a better understanding of the theory and application of fracture mechanics to concrete and concrete structures and to promote fracture-based approaches of quasi-brittle materials in engineering practice in particular with reference to infrastructure life-cycle assessment (durability), environmental protection (e.g. long term waste storage, carbon dioxide sequestration), energy (e.g. nuclear vessels, hydrocarbon production) and engineered design of new materials.

Purposes

The main objective of IA-FraMCoS is to organize the International Conference on Fracture Mechanics of Concrete and Concrete Structures (IC-FraMCoS) every three-year intervals in order to encourage activities promoting the study and applications of scientific principles and concepts of safety, risk, and reliability in engineering.

Besides this main international Conference, the Association will also sponsor workshops, symposia, conference sessions, lectures, short courses, and publications for the promotion of all aspects of the theory and application of fracture mechanics to concrete and concrete structures. The Association will continually encourage cooperation with other societies and associations with similar missions and objectives.

Membership in Association

Membership is individual and is open to those with interest in the theory and application of fracture mechanics to concrete and concrete structures from both academia and practice. Membership is automatic for anyone who has participated in the last IC-FraMCoS and has confirmed his/her will to be a

member. Membership can also be applied to the Board in writing anytime. The application must be approved by the President upon recommendation by at least two members of the Board.

Organizational Structure and Governance

The Association shall be governed by a Board composed of a President, a Vice-president, a Secretary, and two other members.

IA-FraMCoS members interested in serving in the Board should send their nomination (including 1 page Bio and motivation) to the president at least 30 days before the election.

Board members then review the applications to ensure that only those with a proven track record in fields related to the organization objectives are retained. Names, and accompanying documents are then posted on the organization web site no later than two weeks prior to the conference.

IA-FraMCoS members then vote electronically no later than one week prior to the opening of the forthcoming conference. Members can serve up to two consecutive terms of three years only.

The Board shall be chaired by the President who will be responsible for calling and convening meetings and for canvassing the votes on issues that require approval (simple majority).

The President and Vice-president

The *President*, elected at the end of each IC-FraMCoS shall be the Chair of the next IC-FraMCoS and has the principal responsibility to organize the Conference. He/she shall serve as a member of the Board during his/her term in office; shall organize the committees for the next Conference, and recommend committee chairs for approval by the Board. He/she shall be responsible for negotiating (with the assistance of the Secretary/Treasurer) and signing any contract with other organizations for sharing the financial risk and surplus for holding the upcoming IA-FraMCoS during the term of his/her presidency.

The *President* shall preside as Chair of the Assembly Meeting of the Association during the IA-FraMCoS for which he/she is responsible.

The past president shall be the *Vice-President* and will assist the newly elected President on matters designated and assigned by the President. He/she shall assume the responsibilities of the President in the absence or in case of incapacity of the President.

The Secretary

The *Secretary* is appointed by the Board by simple majority vote during the International Conference. He/she is a member of the Board. The duties of the *Secretary* shall include the following:

- Prepare annually a summary of the financial records of the Association for Board approval upon communication with the treasurer.
- Maintain and update membership list.
- Maintain and update the web-site of the IA.
- Prepare newsletters to keep members posted on IA events.

- Call and convene meetings of the Board and of the General Assembly. Canvass the votes on issues that require approval.
- Attend and record the minutes of all meetings of the Board and of the General Assembly.
- Other duties that may require his/her attention and assistance.

The Conference (IC-FraMCoS)

The conference organized by IA-FraMCoS shall be known as the International Conference on Fracture Mechanics of Concrete and Concrete Structures (IC-FraMCoS) which shall be held every three years, at a location to be selected and approved by the Board along with the nominations of the President.

The Conference shall be organized and directed by the President of FraMCoS as Chair of the Conference with the assistance of one or more co-chairs selected by her/him.

Committees

There shall be two committees for each IC-FraMCoS :

- A local organizing committee (with sub-committees such as finance, social, publication, etc.). The President shall appoint members of the organizing committee and recommend its chairman to the Board for approval.
- An international scientific committee. The President shall appoint members of the international scientific committee, upon proposition by himself and the co-chairs of the conference, and after approval by the Board.

IA-FraMCoS Young Researcher Best Paper Award

It will be granted to two researchers under 40 years of age. While the paper may be co-authored with a senior colleague, the young researcher must be the first author and should be presenting it at the Conference.

The award is based on the quality of the written paper. The judging panel will be chaired by the President-Elect, who will appoint additional members (with a minimum of 2 from the Advisory Board) to help him/her conduct the evaluations. Official Certificates and a thousand dollar each will be given to the winners at the General Assembly or Banquet of the Conference.

Web Site

The official web site of the organization is <http://framcos.org>.

All conference calls are to be made within the framework of this site.

The web site is to be the permanent repository of all conference papers, and key documents uploaded by members.

A Digital Object Identifier (DOI) will be assigned to each accepted and presented conference paper.

Yearly expenses related to the maintenance of the site, renewal of the URL, subscription to the DOI are the responsibility of the organization and not the conference organizers.

The Webmaster is the organization current President.

The Zdeněk Bažant Workshops

In addition to the IC-FraMCoS, the Association organizes every three years at least a scientific workshop part of an established series called "IA-FraMCoS Z.P. Bažant workshops". These workshops are dedicated to contemporary topics within the scope of the association.

Each workshop gathers a limited number of participants, by invitation only (typically up to 20 active participants). Workshops are organized in such a way that at least one third of the duration is dedicated to scientific discussions. Discussions and major conclusions are collated into a report, which becomes available to every member of IA-FraMCoS after approval from the Board of IA-FraMCoS. Potential dissemination of workshop proceedings in edited volumes or archival journals should not restrain the production of the report to the association.

Proposals for IA-FraMCoS Z.P. Bažant workshops are received by the Secretary of IA-FraMCoS and approved by the Board. Proposals should be sent one year at least before the event be held. The Board appoints the workshop chair who will be in charge of the organization of the event and of the reporting to the association. If needed, the workshop chair may be assisted by a co-chair. Each event should be financially self-supported.

The Treasurer

The treasurer functions are delegated to a professional accountant who will serve as registered agent for the Association. He/she must be a resident of Illinois (USA) where IA-FraMCoS is incorporated. The treasurer is not a Board member and does not hold voting rights. The Treasurer will be responsible of submitting the required annual filing report and of providing financial record to the Secretary.

Amendments

This Constitution and By-Laws or any of its items can be amended with a majority vote of the Board members to be confirmed by two thirds of the members.

Dissolution of the Association

It has to be approved by no less than four Board members. Upon dissolution of the Association or the winding up of its affairs, assets of the Association shall be distributed exclusively to scientific, educational or charitable organizations.

Issue	Old Bylaws	New Bylaws	Rational
President Elect	Elected three years before tenure. Total of 9 years in the Board	Elected at the end of the conference to preside for 3 years. Then "Past President". Total tenure 6 years	"Undemocratic", exhausting, need to bring in new people. By the time the term expire, likely to have retired.
Past President	Yes	Kept	Need to have some "institutional memory". Now referred to as "Vice-President".
Number of members in the Board	5	5	Unchanged
Secretary	Elected for one interval.	Position merged with Treasurer.	Those two responsibilities are very similar (record keeping), must report annually (and not every three years)
Treasurer	Elected for one interval. Unspecified where should be her/his residency	From Illinois, position merged with Secretary	It is the Law of the state where we are incorporated.
Membership	Application for Membership must be submitted in writing.	Described as those having attended at least one conference in the past three conferences, or who submit a written request.	It was very awkward, conference participants had to sign an application form along with their registration. There was no "term limit" (as imposed in new Bylaws).
Conferences	Appointed by the President after consultation with the BOD and BOA.	The conference is organized and directed by the President of framcos as chair with the assistance	For all practical purposes, this was the <i>de-facto status quo</i> (the name of the presidents always appeared first in the proceedings).

Issue	Old Bylaws	New Bylaws	Rational
	<p>Young researcher papers.</p> <p>Approval of scientific and local conference committees not required.</p>	of one or more co-chairs	<p>Formalized the need to have an International (thus with good geographic distribution) scientific committee and a local organizing committee.</p> <p>Chairs of these two committees must be approved by the Board</p>
Zdenek Bazant Workshop	Inexistent.	Institutionalized a special workshop by invitation (for the speaker), open to all to address a specialized theme.	Being by invitation, ensure the highest level of participation, a magnet of the conference. Prof. Bazant is member of two national academies, has about 40,000 citations and is founding member of our organization and is without the shred of a doubt the most visible member of our community.
Board of Advisors	<p>8: 4 elected by the General Assembly for a term of two intervals, four of the members appointed by the BOD to serve a term of one interval.</p> <p>No "job description" given, other than they <i>advise</i>. Roles and responsibilities of this board not spelled out.</p>	Eliminated	<p>Small organization of about 250 members. Unworkable to have 8+5=13 members reach a consensus. Vote is ultimately divisive. Most of the issues addressed are relatively mundane, BOA asks itself, what exactly its responsibility is and members are frustrated by inability to vote.</p> <p>I could not find a similar organization having a BOA. All consulted trust their elected officials.</p>
Scientific Board	None	One with International representation proposed. Its chair must be voted by the Board	As one of the main (but only) activity is the conference, the Scientific Board not only helps in the organization (reviews), but indirectly to framcos too. Their role is far more important than the current one of the BOA. Members are by definition

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			esteemed colleagues with research in fracture.
Nominations	Not addressed explicitly.	Candidates must submit a one page Bio/motivation note.	Candidates are assessed on the strength of their accomplishment and vision rather than “reputation” and “connections”.
Elections/Votes	During GA	Electronically for Board Members; during GA for Bylaw amendments.	Typically the GA was held the last day, with many members having left. Votes was not by casting a ballot but by simply raising hands.
Best Paper Award	Addressed	Kept with clarifications on the conditions to be met, the monetary award, and who should pay for it.	Strongly encourage young researchers.
Finance	Organization is a non-profit making organization.	Treasurer must be a resident of the state of Illinois. It is the law. See page 2 article (b)(1)(i) and (b)(2) in the Guide For Organizing Not-For-Profit Corporations in IL.	It is the law (see attachment). To remove this impediment may be possible if we seek the services of a company which (for a fee) could handle the legal paperwork. However, it is not clear whether the bank account can remain in the same State. This could be further examined upon request by the BOD.
Pendulum/Geographic distribution	Never in the previous one.	Not in the present one	
Web Site	Not addressed.	Explicitly specifies who is the web master of http://framcos.org	A critical tool of communication, and repository for all previous papers.

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			DOI must be assigned to every paper.