Proposal for rules of conduct and voting criteria for the THS PhD Chapter meeting of May 17th, 2021.

Rules of conduct

We encourage members to have open and candid discussions and debates. We will not censor members for expressing an opinion within the limits of these rules of conduct. However, all communications should be civil and polite. Members should treat each other with respect and consideration for all points of view.

The PhD Chapter Meeting may not be used to promote/spread/discuss topics or actions that are knowingly false and/or defamatory; contain ad hominem attacks, misleading, inaccurate, abusive, vulgar, hateful, harassing, obscene, profane, sexually oriented, threatening or invasive of a person's privacy; that otherwise violate any law; or that encourage conduct constituting a criminal offense.

Abusive and harassing behavior or any actions that violate these rules of conduct may result in suspension of your ability to participate in the PhD Chapter Meeting.

The meeting Vote Counters act as moderators and are responsible for enforcing the rules of conduct during the PhD Chapter Meeting.

Voting criteria and motion handling

For every instance of voting, the *voting pool* are the members who express a vote *(in Zoom literally: click a button)*, which can be *yes/no/abstained* (corresponding to the buttons "yes", "no", and "go slower" in Zoom). In the case the Meeting Chairperson believes this method not to be reliable, each choice (*yes/no/abstained*) will be voted on separately using the "raise hand" button in Zoom.

Members who do not express a vote are considered as not being present at the voting at all, and do not contribute to the voting pool. The minimum number of members in the voting pool has to meet the quorum as defined in the [PhD Chapter Statutes](). The meeting Vote Counters are responsible for recording the voting pool numbers and the number of all the yes/no/abstained votes.

Motion handling:

The procedure for handling motions submitted to the Chapter meeting is as follows:
1. Motion is open to discussion
2. Motion submitter presents the motion (max time 4 minutes)
3. If the motion moves for action to be expressed toward a Chapter member, the Chapter member in question has the right to the floor (max 4 minutes).

4. Members who want to comment/approve/disapprove on the motion raise their hands in Zoom, and the meeting Vote Counters save their name and order. This includes the Motion submitter in the case they would like to reply to one or several of the comments.
5. Meeting chair gives the floor to the members who requested time (max 2 minutes each).
6. Meeting chair calls for motion voting.

Assessment of candidates for elected positions

Candidates are gathered in a waiting room, then interviewed and assessed individually. After all the interviews, the assessment is conducted by *assessment voting* which determines which candidate will be brought forth to an election voting.

Criteria for assessment voting:
- The candidate with the most *yes* votes can be brought forth as candidate for the election voting.
- If there is a tie in the number of *yes* votes, the smallest number of *no* votes counts as tie-breaker (fewer *no*s).
- If there is a tie in *yes* and *no*, the larger number of *abstained* counts a tie-breaker (larger *voting pool*).

Election/motion voting

Candidates who have been confirmed via an assessment voting and motions which have been presented and discussed are subject to an election/motion voting.

Criteria for election/motion voting:
- The candidate is elected/the motion is approved if a simple majority votes *yes*.

If the motion moves for action to be expressed toward a Chapter member, the Chapter member in question has the right to request anonymous voting, e.g. through the use of the Zoom poll function.

Examples of voting

For all the following examples, the number of possible voters is 15.

Example 1: assessment voting
Voting pool: 12
Candidate A: 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstained
Candidate B: 11 yes, 1 no, 0 abstained
Result: B wins (more yes)

Example 2: assessment voting
Voting pool: 11
Candidate A: 10 yes, 0 no, 1 abstained
Candidate B: 10 yes, 1 no, 0 abstained
Result: A wins (fewer no)

Example 3: assessment voting
Candidate A: 10 yes, 1 no, 2 abstained (voting pool: 13)
Candidate B: 10 yes, 1 no, 1 abstained (voting pool: 12)
Result: A wins (more voters)

Example 4: motion voting
Motion A: 5 yes, 2 no, 7 abstained (voting pool: 14, simple majority (floor(N/2)+1): 8)
Result: A is not approved (no simple majority)

Example 5: election voting
Candidate A: 9 yes, 2 no, 3 abstained (voting pool: 14, simple majority (floor(N/2)+1): 8)
Result: A is elected