

## **CONSTITUTION OF**

### **THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR BIOSEMIOTIC STUDIES**

#### **NAME**

- 1.1 This Society shall be known as the “International Society for Biosemiotic Studies”, hereinafter referred to as the “Society”.
- 1.2 This Constitution is available at: [www.biosemiotics.org](http://www.biosemiotics.org).

#### **PLACE OF BUSINESS**

- 2.1 Its place of business shall be at Department of Semiotics, Jakobi 2, 51005 Tartu, Estonia, or such other address as may subsequently be decided upon by the Executive Committee, in consultation with the Society Board.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- 3.1 Biosemiotics is a science studying meaning making in living systems. It is an interdisciplinary research agenda investigating the myriad forms of communication and signification found in and between organisms. It is thus the study of representation, meaning, sense, and the biological significance of codes and sign processes, from intracellular to intercellular codes and signaling processes to animal display behavior, communication, and semiotic artifacts such as language and abstract symbolic thought.

The purpose of the International Society for Biosemiotic Studies (ISBS) is to constitute an organizational framework for the collaboration among scholars dedicated to biosemiotic studies, and to propagate knowledge of this field of study to researchers in related areas, as well as to the public in general. Towards this end, the Society will assure the organization of regular meetings on research into the semiotics of living nature, as well as to promote the publication of scholarly work on the semiotics of life processes.

Most fundamentally, the Society considers that one of its most important purposes is the promotion of a cross-disciplinary exchange of ideas between researchers who are actively studying any of the myriad forms of semiosis in the biological world. ISBS thus welcomes the membership and collaboration of scholars from all relevant disciplines, including biology, philosophy, ethology, cognitive science, anthropology, and semiotics.

- 3.2 In furtherance of the above objects, the Society may maintain a website for the cross-disciplinary exchange of research findings and theoretical approaches to biosemiotics at [www.biosemiotics.org](http://www.biosemiotics.org), hold an annual academic conference for the presentation of research papers, which both members and non-member scholars may attend, contract with a publisher to publish a book series and a regularly published journal of biosemiotic scholarship, and to finance its operations through the collection of an agreed-upon percentage from the university or institution hosting the annual conference (generally 60% of conference registration fees collected to be paid to the Society after all of the host institution’s expenses for putting on the conference have been subtracted, although the exact percentage each year will be decided by the Board in discussion with the host after considering exchange rates and the financial situation of the hosting institution.)

## **MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION AND RIGHTS**

4.1 Membership is open to any intellectual whose interests lie in the study of biosemiotics, and the Society shall make membership open to any member of the public that so asks for it, as well as automatically enrol all who present or attend one of the Society's annual Gathering in Biosemiotics conferences.

4.2 Membership carries with it no other perquisites, requirements or benefits other than to be included on the Society's mailing list for messages informing members of upcoming conferences, publications and events.

4.3 Said list will be kept by the Society Secretary, who will provide access to all members of the Executive Committee and Society Board to access an updated copy of the list online. Only the Secretary will be authorized to send out messages to the mailing list, in consultation with the Society Board

4.2 Any person wishing to join the Society should submit their particulars to the Society on a prescribed form, which will be available online at <http://www.biosemiotics.org>.

## **MANAGEMENT BY SOCIETY BOARD**

5.1 The authority of the Society is vested in the joint consensus of the Society Board. The administration of the Society shall be entrusted to an Executive Committee, which will be elected for a five-year term at the appropriate annual conference, and whose duty it will be to carry out the decisions of the Society Board.

A President

A Vice-President

A Secretary

A Treasurer

5.2 Candidates for the above four offices shall be proposed and seconded at the relevant year's annual conference and election will follow on a simple majority vote of the members. All office-bearers may be re-elected to the same or related post for a consecutive term of office. The term of office is five years. There is no limit to the amount of terms for which one candidate may be re-elected.

5.3 Election will either be by secret ballot or by show of hands. In the event of a tie, a subsequent re-vote shall be taken within the next 24 hours, and if it still results in a tie, the vote will be postponed until the following year.

5.4 The Board in total shall be composed of 9 members, including the Executive Committee consisting of the four above-mentioned positions. The rest of the Society Board shall consist of five scholars of the field, each serving indefinitely renewable three-year terms, and as Board members leave, successors will be nominated and decided upon by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board.

5.5 Any member of the Society Board who has been absent from more than two years' worth of online or in-person Board meetings without satisfactory explanation shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the Board and the successor will be appointed the procedure described above.

5.6 The complete remit and duty of the Society Board and its Executive Committee is listed in its entirety in point 3.2, about which matters their decisions shall be considered final.

5.7 A Society Board meeting shall be held at least once every twelve months after giving seven days' notice to all parties involved.

5.8 The Executive Committee has power to authorise, after consultation with the rest of the Board, all expenditures from the Society's funds for the Society's purposes.

### **DUTIES OF OFFICE-BEARERS**

6.1 The President shall chair all Committee meetings (and any other Society-related meeting called). S/he shall also represent the Society in its dealings with outside persons.

6.2 The Vice-President shall assist the President and deputise for her/him in her/his absence.

6.3 The Secretary shall keep all records, except financial, of the Society and shall be responsible for their correctness. S/he will keep minutes of all Committee meetings (and any other Society-related meeting called). S/he shall maintain an up-to-date Register of Members at all times.

6.4 The Treasurer shall keep all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Society and shall keep an account of all monetary transactions and shall be responsible for their correctness.

6.5 Other Board Members shall assist in the general administration of the Society and perform duties assigned by the Executive Committee from time to time.

6.6 A webmaster shall be engaged by the Society to maintain the existing website at [www.biosemiotics.org](http://www.biosemiotics.org) and to post additional announcements on the website as provided by the Secretary, at the request of the Executive Committee in consultation with the other members of Society Board.

### **PROHIBITIONS**

7.1 The Society will adhere to all prohibitions for meetings and purposes of societies specific to the host country.

### **AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

8.1 No alteration or addition/deletion to this Constitution shall be made except at a Society Board meeting and with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the Society Board members, whose votes on the matter may be presented by email, if they cannot be present for the online or in-person meeting. The proposals for alteration of the constitution should be sent by letter to the secretary at least two weeks before the next board meeting. The secretary will then compile and forward proposals to the Board prior to the meeting

### **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

9.1 In the event of any question or matter pertaining to day-to-day administration which is not expressly provided for in this Constitution, the Executive Committee, in consultation with other members of the Board, shall have power to use its own discretion. In case of dispute, the Board's vote shall be final.

**DISSOLUTION**

10.1 The Society shall not be dissolved, except with the consent of not less than two-thirds of the total voting membership of the Society Board, at a Special Meeting convened for the purpose.

10.2 In the event of 10.1, a Certificate of Dissolution shall be given within thirteen days of the dissolution to the body providing legal endorsement to the Society.

**SIGNATORIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AS OF DECEMBER 04, 2024**



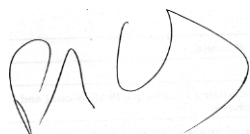
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Kalevi Kull  
President



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Donald Favareau  
Vice-President



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Paul Cobley  
Secretary



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Ludmila Lacková Bennett  
Treasurer