

Charter of the Frontiers in Finance Conference

Draft for Comments

Chapter I General Provisions

Article 1 The Conference shall be known in English as the Frontiers in Finance Conference and abbreviated as FFC.

Article 2 The Conference is a non-profit academic conference platform in finance, established to promote high-level exchange in financial research, academic collaboration, talent development, and disciplinary advancement.

Article 3 The Conference shall be organized to high standards, in an open, professional, and well-governed manner. Grounded in finance as a discipline, it is directed toward frontier research in finance and related interdisciplinary fields, major issues in China with frontier academic value, and future scientific and technological developments that may reshape the production of financial knowledge, research methodologies, and disciplinary boundaries. The Conference seeks to build a high-level academic brand with lasting influence.

Article 4 The purposes of the Conference are as follows:

1. to encourage high-quality research across all areas of finance that is original, field-leading, and attentive to real-world concerns, and to promote rigorous academic discussion and exchange of ideas;
2. to support the continued expansion of the boundaries of finance around major future questions, emerging topics, and frontier methods, and to strengthen the discipline's problem awareness, explanatory power, and capacity for innovation;
3. to promote deep integration between finance and frontier science, advanced technology, and new research tools; to support the responsible application of data science, artificial intelligence, and other new methods in financial research; and to advance innovation in research paradigms and analytical methods;
4. to facilitate high-quality academic exchange between young scholars and senior scholars, to support doctoral students, as well as exceptionally outstanding undergraduate and master's students where appropriate, in participating in frontier research discussions, and to promote academic continuity, talent development, and intellectual innovation;
5. to develop a conference profile that combines originality of thought, academic leadership, attention to major real-world issues in China, and a future-oriented perspective.

Article 5 The Conference welcomes research contributions from all fields of finance. It encourages submissions of high-quality research that is grounded in finance, addresses major real-world issues, demonstrates methodological innovation, and reflects interdisciplinary engagement. It also supports the exchange of research that combines finance with statistics, data science, computer science, artificial intelligence, and other related disciplines.

Article 6 The Conference shall be held on a regular basis. As a general rule, a summer edition shall be held each year in Hefei, China. Other editions may be held at other times and locations as circumstances warrant. The specific timing, location, and hosting arrangements shall be determined in accordance with the organizational procedures set forth in this Charter.

Article 7 For purposes of this Charter, an "edition of the Conference" refers to each specific conference held pursuant to this Charter.

Chapter II Organizational Structure

Article 8 The Conference shall have two standing bodies: the Conference Committee and the Advisory Committee. Each edition of the Conference shall establish an Academic Committee and an Organizing Committee.

The Conference Committee is the highest deliberative body of the Conference. The Advisory Committee is the body responsible for guidance, consultation, and institutional continuity. The Academic Committee and the Organizing Committee shall be established in accordance with this Charter and shall conduct their work under the overall coordination of the Conference Committee. Major matters concerning the Conference shall be reviewed and decided in accordance with this Charter, after fully considering the views of the Advisory Committee and subject to the basic requirements of the sponsoring institution.

Article 9 The Conference Committee is the highest deliberative body of the Conference and is responsible for reviewing and deciding major matters and institutional arrangements concerning the Conference.

1. The Conference Committee shall serve a three-year term.
2. Members of the Conference Committee shall be nominated by the Advisory Committee and the sponsoring institution, and shall be selected through consultation among the preceding Conference Committee, the Advisory Committee, and representatives of the sponsoring institution. Upon the initial implementation of this Charter, the supplementary provisions shall apply.
3. The Conference Committee shall primarily perform the following duties:
 - 1) reviewing and deciding major matters in the development of the Conference;
 - 2) reviewing the formulation, amendment, and implementation of the Charter;
 - 3) reviewing the purposes of the Conference, its organizational structure, award system, and other important institutional arrangements;
 - 4) coordinating the establishment and related work of the Academic Committee and the Organizing Committee for each edition of the Conference;
 - 5) considering arrangements for the next edition of the Conference and related organizational matters;
 - 6) deciding other matters that require review by the Conference Committee.

Article 10 The Advisory Committee is the body responsible for guidance, consultation, and institutional continuity.

1. The Advisory Committee shall have no fixed term.

2. Members of the Advisory Committee shall have strong academic standing, broad public recognition, and a willingness to participate continuously in the development of the Conference. Additions and adjustments to the membership of the Advisory Committee shall, in principle, be discussed and arranged each May and announced at that year's summer edition of the Conference.

3. The Advisory Committee shall primarily perform the following duties:

- 1) guiding the long-term academic direction and development positioning of the Conference;
- 2) providing consultative advice to the Conference Committee on the purposes of the Conference, amendments to the Charter, award arrangements, and other important institutional matters;
- 3) making recommendations to the Conference Committee regarding renewal of the Conference Committee, the establishment of the Academic Committee for each edition, and other major matters relating to the next edition of the Conference;
- 4) providing consultation on conference brand-building, academic quality, and long-term institutional continuity;
- 5) considering other important matters that require discussion by the Advisory Committee.

Article 11 The Academic Committee is the academic organizing body established for each edition of the Conference.

1. The Advisory Committee, the sponsoring institution, and the host institution shall propose a recommended membership list for the Academic Committee, which shall be submitted to the Conference Committee for review and confirmation.

2. The selection of Academic Committee members shall fully take into account the views of the Advisory Committee.

3. The composition of the Academic Committee shall reflect an appropriate balance across research areas and age groups. In selecting members of the Academic Committee, reference shall in principle be made to their academic output over the preceding five years, with attention to both academic influence and broader social influence, and with appropriate consideration given to scholars who continuously engage with major real-world issues in China and the world.

4. The specific duties of the Academic Committee shall be defined by the provisions of this Charter concerning the organization and preparation of each edition of the Conference and concerning academic activities and review.

Article 12 The Organizing Committee is the body established for the preparation and execution of each edition of the Conference.

1. The Organizing Committee shall be established when the preparatory work for the relevant edition begins and shall conclude when the post-conference summary for that edition has been completed.

2. The sponsoring institution, the host institution, and other relevant parties shall propose a recommended membership list for the Organizing Committee, which shall be submitted to the Conference Committee for review and confirmation.

3. The selection of Organizing Committee members shall fully take into account the views of the sponsoring institution and the host institution.

4. The specific duties of the Organizing Committee shall be defined by the provisions of this Charter concerning the organization and preparation of each edition of the Conference.

Article 13 As needed, the Organizing Committee may establish a Secretariat to undertake day-to-day liaison, overall coordination, and specific support work. The specific arrangements for the Secretariat shall be determined by the relevant edition of the Conference in light of actual needs.

Article 14 During each edition of the Conference, the Conference Committee and the Advisory Committee shall discuss the next-stage arrangements for the Conference and, in principle, form preliminary arrangements for the next edition. Members who are unable to attend in person may participate in the relevant discussions online or may submit written views in advance.

Article 15 Members of the Advisory Committee, the Conference Committee, the Academic Committee, and the Organizing Committee shall diligently perform their duties and safeguard the academic reputation and organizational order of the Conference. If two-thirds or more of the members of the Advisory Committee determine that a member of any of the four committees is no longer suitable to serve, that member shall resign from the relevant position.

Article 16 The membership of the Conference Committee, the Advisory Committee, the Academic Committee, and the Organizing Committee shall remain open, diverse, and representative. As a general rule, members currently affiliated with the same institution shall not account for more than 50 percent of the Conference Committee, 30 percent of the Advisory Committee, or 50 percent of the Academic Committee. The composition of the Organizing Committee shall balance execution needs with diversity of background, and participation by individuals from different institutions and professional backgrounds is encouraged; as a general rule, members currently affiliated with the same institution should not account for more than two-thirds of the Organizing Committee. In forming and adjusting committee memberships, the foregoing ratios and structural requirements shall be considered while ensuring the practical needs of the Conference and the quality of member selection.

Chapter III Organization and Preparation of Each Edition

Article 17 Each edition of the Conference shall be organized and held under the overall coordination of the Conference Committee. The Academic Committee shall be responsible for academic organization, and the Organizing Committee shall be responsible for preparation, coordination, and execution. Major matters relating to each edition of the Conference shall be submitted to the Conference Committee for review and decision in accordance with this Charter.

Article 18 The Organizing Committee shall be responsible for the preparation and implementation of each edition of the Conference, including:

1. venue arrangements, liaison, registration, publicity, reception, materials, logistics, and on-site support;
2. coordinating with the Academic Committee to implement the program schedule and organize academic activities;

3. communicating and coordinating with the sponsoring institution, the host institution, and other relevant parties as needed for the relevant edition;

4. undertaking other work related to the preparation, organization, and execution of the relevant edition of the Conference.

Article 19 The specific conference arrangements and related operational matters for each edition shall be issued separately in light of actual circumstances, and the time, location, agenda, venue arrangements, and relevant services shall be announced in a timely manner. Notices, explanations, and implementing rules for each edition of the Conference shall be consistent with this Charter.

Article 20 After each edition of the Conference, summary, archiving, and handover work shall be completed in a timely manner.

1. Agendas, lists, awards, institutional documents, and other important materials shall be properly organized and preserved;

2. necessary summaries shall be prepared concerning conference operations, academic organization, and implementation of institutional arrangements;

3. important matters relating to the next edition of the Conference shall be connected and handed over in a timely manner;

4. the foregoing summary, archiving, and handover work shall provide a foundation for the next edition of the Conference.

Chapter IV Academic Activities and Review

Article 21 Each edition of the Conference shall, in principle, issue an open call for papers to scholars in China and abroad.

1. Research outputs that are consistent with the purposes and scope of the Conference, have academic value, and comply with standards of academic ethics may be submitted in accordance with the arrangements for the relevant edition;

2. The Conference is committed to open academic exchange and encourages high-quality research that is grounded in finance, addresses major real-world issues, and reflects methodological innovation and interdisciplinary engagement;

3. The scope of submissions, material requirements, and timeline for each edition of the Conference shall be announced separately in light of actual circumstances;

4. Submitters shall comply with this Charter and the relevant rules of the edition of the Conference to which they submit.

Article 22 Review, acceptance, and program arrangements for each edition of the Conference shall be organized and implemented by the Academic Committee.

1. The Academic Committee shall be responsible for considering and formulating plans for the call for papers, review, acceptance, and program arrangements, and for organizing the relevant work;

2. Review for each edition of the Conference shall adhere to principles of fairness, impartiality, professionalism, prudence, and operational feasibility;

3. The Conference shall treat all submitters equally and shall not establish differentiated submission or review channels based on the identity of the presenter;

4. The acceptance list and principal academic activity arrangements shall be considered and decided by the Academic Committee and filed with the Conference Committee and the Advisory Committee. Major adjustments or other major matters shall be considered and decided by the Conference Committee.

Article 23 Each edition of the Conference may establish different forms of academic activities as needed.

1. Such activities may include keynote lectures, regular paper presentations, panel discussions, closed-door meetings, internal special presentations, and other necessary academic activities;

2. To emphasize frontier orientation and future direction, an edition of the Conference may establish internal special presentations or other invitation-only academic activities around research ideas, research frameworks, or academic topics that are not yet fully formed but have significant potential and importance;

3. Young scholars and doctoral students may be organized to participate in relevant academic exchange activities in accordance with conference arrangements;

4. The format, invitation scope, and organizational arrangements for the foregoing activities shall be proposed by the Academic Committee and submitted to the Conference Committee for decision.

Article 24 Each edition of the Conference shall strictly maintain academic integrity and the order of the review process.

1. Submitted papers shall be original works of the authors and shall comply with standards of academic integrity;

2. Where plagiarism, misappropriation, data fabrication, duplicate submission, infringement of intellectual property rights, or any other violation of academic ethics exists, the relevant edition of the Conference may revoke the submission, acceptance, presentation, or award eligibility of the paper concerned;

3. Members of the Advisory Committee, the Conference Committee, the Academic Committee, and the Organizing Committee, as well as discussants, award reviewers, and other relevant persons, shall voluntarily recuse themselves from review, acceptance recommendations, and award deliberations for submissions involving themselves, close relatives, direct collaborators, members of the same institutional team, or any other significant conflict of interest;

4. Academic activities of each edition of the Conference shall serve the purposes of the Conference and shall maintain academic independence, professionalism, and quality standards.

Chapter V Awards and Young Scholar Development

Article 25 The Conference shall establish the Best Paper Award, the Best Young Scholar Paper Award, the Best Doctoral Student Paper Award, and the Best Discussant Award. The number of awards, review procedures, and forms of recognition shall be determined separately by each edition of the Conference in light of actual circumstances.

Article 26 The Best Paper Award shall be open to papers accepted by the relevant edition of the Conference. Young scholars and doctoral students shall not be excluded from consideration for the Best Paper Award on the basis of age, status, or activity category.

Article 27 The Best Young Scholar Paper Award is intended to encourage young scholars with independent research capacity who explore major future-oriented questions.

For purposes of this Charter, a young scholar shall, in principle, refer to a presenter who is under the age of 35 on the first day of the Conference; for female presenters, the age threshold shall be relaxed to under 38.

An applicant for the Best Young Scholar Paper Award shall, in principle, meet all of the following conditions:

1. the presenter was identified as a young scholar at the time of submission;
2. the presenter satisfies the age requirement set forth in the preceding paragraph;
3. the presenter has made substantive contributions to the core question, main arguments, research design, or principal writing of the paper.

The Best Young Scholar Paper Award shall be selected from accepted papers that meet the foregoing conditions.

Article 28 The Best Doctoral Student Paper Award is intended to encourage doctoral students to conduct independent research and participate actively in high-level academic exchange.

An applicant for the Best Doctoral Student Paper Award shall, in principle, meet all of the following conditions:

1. the presenter was identified as a doctoral student at the time of submission;
2. the presenter is a doctoral student on the first day of the Conference and has not previously obtained another doctoral degree;
3. the presenter personally delivers the presentation;
4. the presenter has made substantive contributions to the core question, main arguments, research design, or principal writing of the paper.

The Best Doctoral Student Paper Award shall be selected from accepted papers that meet the foregoing conditions.

Article 29 Applicants for the Best Young Scholar Paper Award or the Best Doctoral Student Paper Award shall, at the time of submission, declare the presenter's status and principal contributions to the

paper. The Academic Committee may request supplementary explanations and propose a determination of eligibility, which shall be submitted to the Conference Committee for confirmation.

Article 30 The Conference attaches importance to the development of young scholars and encourages high-quality exchange between young scholars and senior scholars around important academic questions, major real-world issues, and frontier research directions. Each edition of the Conference may organize relevant academic exchange activities in light of actual circumstances.

Article 31 The Best Discussant Award shall be established for discussants at each edition of the Conference to encourage high-quality, constructive discussion that advances academic research.

Chapter VI Formulation, Amendment, and Implementation of the Charter

Article 32 This Charter is the basic governing document for the long-term operation, institutional continuity, and organizational governance of the Conference. Matters that concern the long-term and stable principles of the Conference shall be provided for in the Charter; operational matters that may be adjusted by each edition of the Conference in light of actual circumstances shall be addressed separately by the relevant bodies through implementing measures or working rules.

Article 33 The formulation and amendment of this Charter shall uphold the purposes of the Conference, respect its traditions, adapt to the needs of academic development, and balance stability, openness, and enforceability.

Article 34 Proposals to formulate or amend the Charter may be made by the Advisory Committee or the Conference Committee. As a general rule, draft amendments to the Charter shall be researched and prepared by the Conference Committee.

Article 35 Draft amendments to the Charter shall be submitted to the Conference Committee for review and shall be adopted only with the approval of two-thirds or more of all members of the Conference Committee. Amendments involving the purposes of the Conference, its organizational structure, award system, or other major institutional arrangements shall be reviewed only after the views of the Advisory Committee and the Academic Committee have been fully considered.

Article 36 After each edition of the Conference, the implementation of this Charter shall be evaluated, and matters including adjustments to Advisory Committee membership, renewal of the Conference Committee, establishment of the Academic Committee and Organizing Committee for the next edition, and whether the Charter requires amendment shall be considered.

Article 37 Pursuant to this Charter, the Conference Committee may formulate implementing measures or working rules concerning review rules, award applications, conference operations, closed-door meeting arrangements, internal special presentations, and other related matters. Such implementing measures or working rules shall not conflict with this Charter.

Chapter VII Supplementary Provisions

Article 38 Upon the initial implementation of this Charter, the first Conference Committee, the first Academic Committee, and the first Organizing Committee shall be determined by the sponsoring institution in consultation with the Advisory Committee.

Article 39 The power to interpret this Charter shall belong to the Conference Committee. During a period of renewal of the Conference Committee, if interpretation of matters under this Charter or temporary handling of related matters is required, the sponsoring institution shall, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, propose views for confirmation by the new Conference Committee.

Article 40 This Charter shall take effect after adoption through the prescribed procedures. Matters not covered herein shall be considered and handled by the Conference Committee.