



Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations 2017 Summary Report

Charge

The committee is responsible for selecting at least two nominees for President each year, and at least two nominees for Treasurer every four years, to be forwarded to Sigma Xi Headquarters. This year, both offices were included in the charge to the committee.

Membership

The committee was originally comprised of 13 members including three past presidents, Linda Meadows, Kelly Sullivan, and Joseph Whittaker. The other voting members were Uvetta Dozier, Vishnunath Kamalnath, Michael C. Madden, Theodora (Dora) Pinou, Anna E. Sienko, Hayriye (Merve) Yurdacan, Nicholas Ziats, John Kelley, Elie Sehnaoui, and Perry Kurtz. Elie Sehnaoui and John Kelley resigned for health reasons before the committee made its final nominee recommendations. Wanda Young and Jasmine Shah provided administrative support. John C. Nemeth, Sigma Xi Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, attended as a non-voting advisor.

The 2016 Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations elected Perry Kurtz as Committee Chair for 2017 prior to its adjournment. Michael Madden volunteered to serve as Deputy Chair for 2017 and his election was approved by voice vote at the first meeting and finalized through email approval of members not able to participate in that meeting.

Meetings

Meetings were held by teleconference, generally one hour in duration, on the following dates:

Meeting No.	Date	Number of Voting Member Participants
1	February 28, 2017	6
2	March 17, 2017	4
3	March 31, 2017	5
4	April 14, 2017	4
5	April 28, 2017	4
6	May 11, 2017	5
7	May 23, 2017	6
8	June 6, 2017	9

Minutes for these meetings were drafted by Sigma Xi staff and approved at subsequent teleconference meetings or by email vote. It should be noted that this year it seemed to be particularly difficult to arrive at meeting days and times that committee members could agree would suit their schedules throughout the approximate four

months of committee work. This was discussed in several meetings and there were numerous and extensive efforts made by the Sigma Xi office staff to find meeting times that would suit the most members using electronic “Doodle Polls.” Options considered (polled but not adopted) included possible meeting times on weekends and after normal business hours but attendance was uniformly disappointing, except for the last meeting. One nominal member of the committee did not participate in any of the teleconference meetings. It is important to note that the best attendance occurred at the last teleconference meeting, June 6, when 9 of 11 voting members participated. At this meeting, discussion and final selection of presidential nominee recommendations took place and were unanimously approved. Therefore, despite the low participation rates for most of the meetings, it can be asserted that the conclusions and candidate selections validly represent the consensus of the elected members of the 2017 Committee on Nominations. Other communications for committee business was carried out through telephone calls and email correspondence, including selection and approval of Treasurer candidates and the selection of the chair for the 2018 Committee on Nominations.

Selection of Candidates for President

Committee members were asked to solicit potential candidates to run for President-elect in 2017. Potential candidates included persons considered in previous years as well as new candidates, and each had a committee member liaison. Candidates were asked to submit a bio sketch, curriculum vitae, and candidate’s statement. The statement was to address how Sigma Xi can best serve its members and the global community. In addition, if video clips of the candidates were available these were solicited (but not required) to assist in the assessment of public speaking skills.

By the May 23rd meeting, the committee had a roster of seven candidates who had provided the necessary background materials and expressed a willingness to run for election in 2017. The qualifications of each of these seven were discussed at that meeting and it was agreed that the committee was ready to provide written ratings on ten different aspects of each candidate’s qualifications before the next meeting. The rating rubric was developed by the 2013 Committee on Nominations and had been approved for use by this year’s committee at the March 31st meeting. Nine of eleven committee members had submitted ratings by June 3 and these ratings and optional comments were compiled and summarized by the Chair; individual and summary results were sent to committee members by email the following day, two days before the next meeting on June 6. In the written summary provided, the names of the committee members were coded to preserve anonymity.

At the June 6 meeting the rating results were discussed. After considerable deliberation and near the conclusion of this meeting, the committee voted to recommend three candidates for President-elect in 2017. The three candidates nominated to stand for election as President-elect in 2017 were: **Dr. Lawson W. Brigham**, Distinguished Fellow in the Center for Arctic Policy Studies and Faculty in the International Arctic Research Center, both at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF); **Dr. Geraldine L. Richmond**, Presidential Chair of Science and Professor of Chemistry, University of Oregon; and **Dr. Sonya T. Smith**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Howard University. The selection of these three candidates was approved unanimously by the committee.

Recent Sigma Xi elections have only included two candidates for President-elect. Therefore, the committee recommended that the Board confirm to the electorate prior to the election (if it is consistent with the governing rules of the organization) that the selection of the winner in the fall election should be the candidate with the most votes (plurality) and that the winner would not be required to receive the majority of votes cast.

2018 Committee Chair

On June 30, the committee chair sent an email to all committee members asking their approval vote for selecting Michael Madden as committee chair for the following year (2018) or, if the committee member so chose, an alternative committee member's name for this role. Positive responses were received from eight of eleven committee members within 24 hours indicating approval of Dr. Madden. The remaining three members either did not respond or abstained. Therefore, Dr. Madden will take on this role for the 2018 Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations.

Selection of Candidates for Treasurer

Because the current Sigma Xi Treasurer, David Baker, is filling out the vacated term of the previous Treasurer it was necessary to provide nominations for the position of Treasurer. A subgroup "Search Committee" was selected to identify potential candidates. The subgroup consisted of Nominations Committee member Anna Sienko, who volunteered for this role, together with Apryll Stalcup and Jim Froula, both members of the Committee on Finances. Professor Stalcup served as chair of the Search Committee and transmitted their report to the Nominations Committee Chair on July 12th. The recommended candidates for Treasurer were: **Dr. David W. Baker**, President, David W. Baker & Associates, LLC and current Sigma Xi Treasurer, and **Dr. Gene Siegal**, Robert W. Mowry Endowed Prof of Pathology, Prof of Surgery and Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology, Dept. of Pathology, University of Alabama at Birmingham. In addition, the Search Committee recommended that Dr. Frederick G. Wolf, Asst. VP, Legacy Site Service, LLC and Principle Environmental Engineer, RETIA USA, LLC, be advanced as an alternate candidate in the unlikely event that either Dr. Baker or Dr. Siegal should decline the nomination to serve as Treasurer. The chair sent an email to the Nominations Committee members with the names of the candidates recommended by the Search Committee together with background information on each on July 13th. Committee members were requested to respond by July 20. Ten of the eleven committee members responded by this date and all approved the slate of recommended Treasurer candidates and the alternate candidate. Therefore, the committee officially recommends that Drs. Baker and Siegal stand for Treasurer in 2017 with Dr. Wolf serving as backup.

The business of the 2017 Committee on Nominations having been completed and its charge fulfilled, no additional meetings or communications are planned.

Respectfully submitted,



Perry J. Kurtz, PhD, Chair
2017 Committee on Nominations