

Report of the 2016 Committee on Nominations

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.

Francis C. Dane was elected as chair of the committee; Perry Kurtz was elected as deputy chair. Additional elected members included Chris Fasano, Vishnu Kamalnath, John J. Kelley, Tammy A. Maldonado, Miroslav Synek, Michael C. Madden, Theodora Pinou, Eli Antoine Sehnaoui, and Jennifer Patterson. Jim Baur, Linda Meadows, and Kelly Sullivan represented the Board of Directors as Past Presidents. Jasmine Shah served as Staff Contact and Wanda Young provided administrative support. John C. Nemeth, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, also attended many teleconferences as advisor.

As in recent years, the Committee's deliberations were conducted via regular conference calls and electronic correspondence. An electronic repository was used to maintain accessibility of materials and records. Each member of the committee was asked to generate candidates for consideration, which process produced an initial list of 61 candidates. Some candidates were carried over from the previous year's committee's deliberations. Discussion of desirable qualities for candidates occurred multiple times during the process.

Each candidate was assigned a liaison from the committee to assist in gathering relevant artifacts, which included a Curriculum Vitae and Nomination Form. The latter included a brief biosketch, an accounting of Sigma Xi activities, and a statement in which the candidate was encouraged to reply specific questions regarding leadership of Sigma Xi. Liaisons also developed a brief summary of candidates' biographies relevant to the position.

The initial list of 61 candidates was narrowed to 6 candidates through declination and deliberation. All materials regarding the six candidates and a candidate-rating rubric developed by the 2013 Committee on Nominations were distributed to all members of the committee. Responses to the rubric were tallied and distributed by the deputy chair. Discussion of the ratings and materials produced unanimous agreement to present the names of two candidates to the home office. The two individuals were contacted by the home office, who secured their agreement to stand for election to the office of President Elect.

The individuals nominated to stand for election to President-Elect are Lawson W. Brigham, Distinguished Professor of Geography & Arctic Policy at University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Joel R. Primack, Emeritus Professor of Physics at University of California Santa Cruz.

Because of the resignation of Ron Millard, Treasurer of Sigma Xi, the committee also oversaw the nomination of two candidates for election to treasurer. Per the bylaws,

Mark Peeples, Immediate Past-President, in consultation with the chair of the committee on nominations, established a search committee, who recommended two candidates to the committee on nominations, who in turn approved both candidates for nomination.

The individuals nominated to stand for election to treasurer are David Baker, senior vice president of Field Services for AT&T, and F. John Case, senior vice-president for operations and chief financial officer at Morehouse School of Medicine.

The chair is most appreciative of the effort and cooperation exhibited by members of the committee, who often were willing to overcome technical difficulties in pursuit of their responsibilities. The chair particularly appreciates the work of Perry Kurtz, who, as deputy chair, fulfilled many of the chair's responsibilities when he was unable to meet them for health reasons.