



## **Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations**

### **2018 Summary Report**

#### **Charge**

This year the committee was responsible for selecting at least two nominees for President and forwarded to Sigma Xi Headquarters. No nominees for Treasurer were needed this year.

#### **Membership**

The committee was originally comprised of 14 members including three past presidents, Linda Meadows, Mark Peeples, and Joseph Whittaker. The other voting members were Vishnu Kamalnath, Anna E. Sienko, Hayriye (Merve) Yurdacan, Nicholas Ziats, Richard Bradley, Indrajit Chowdhury, Christopher Doona, Surojit Gupta, Germano Iannacchione, Robert Youker, and myself. Vishnu Kamalnath declined a position on the committee, having served three previous years. Wanda Young and Jasmine Shah provided administrative support. Jamie Vernon, Sigma Xi Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, and Rodney Jones, Sigma Xi Chief of Staff, attended as non-voting advisors.

The 2018 Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations elected Michael Madden as Committee Chair for 2018 prior to its adjournment. Nicholas Ziats volunteered to serve as Deputy Chair for 2018 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. The results from a Doodle poll sent to Committee members indicated that Wednesday February 23, 2018 was a favorable time for most members to attend. Because the majority of the members could consistently attend the teleconference on Wednesday, future meetings were held on alternating Wednesday until May 30, 2018. All calls achieved attendance producing a quorum.

Minutes for these meetings were drafted by Sigma Xi staff and approved at subsequent teleconference meetings. Due to the majority of members attending the calls, it can be asserted that the conclusions and candidate selections validly represent the consensus of the elected members of the 2018 Committee on Nominations.

#### **Discussion of Procedures from the Executive Committee**

A memo from the Executive Committee from 1998 and re-ratified in 2006-2007 was presented to the Committee. The memo provided instructions on how the Committee and Executive Director should proceed with the processes of finding candidates; these processes were not used in any recent past Committee process. After discussion, the Committee decided to ask in a letter from the Chair that the Executive Committee delay these processes until the next selection cycle. The Executive Committee voted to allow the Committee to continue using the process

established in recent past years, as well as to discuss the procedures to be utilized in the selection process for next year.

### **Selection of Candidates for President**

Committee members were asked to solicit potential candidates to run for President-elect in 2018. Additionally potential candidates included persons considered in previous years who had indicated a potential interest in being considered as a candidate for this year. Before the Committee met for the first time, Sonya Smith indicated she would be willing to be considered as a candidate again this year, having been a nominee for the President-elect position last year. Both new and old potential candidates each had a committee member liaison. Candidates were asked to submit a bio sketch, curriculum vitae, candidate's statement, and a link to a video of the candidate speaking during a presentation or interview. The video clips of the candidates assisted in the assessment of public speaking skills.

By the May 16th meeting, the committee had a roster of four candidates who had provided the necessary background materials and expressed a willingness to run for election in 2018. The qualifications of each of these four were discussed at that meeting with a brief oral summary of each candidate's qualifications presented by the assigned liaison. The committee was provided written ratings on ten different aspects of each candidate's qualifications before the next meeting using the form utilized the previous year; The rating form was developed by the 2013 Committee on Nominations and was unweighted in terms of the importance of each attribute. Nine of committee members submitted ratings before the May 28<sup>th</sup>. The ratings and any additional, and optional, comments were compiled and summarized by the Chair. The results were sent to committee members by email the following day, one day before the next meeting on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The names of the committee members were coded to preserve anonymity.

The candidates' ratings were discussed on the May 30<sup>th</sup> teleconference. After deliberation at 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. George Perry**, Professor of Biology, University of Texas at San Antonio; **Dr. Audeen Fentiman**, Professor of Engineering Education, Purdue University; and **Dr. Sonya T. Smith**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, Howard University. The selection of these three candidates was approved unanimously by the committee.

### **2018 Committee Chair**

On June 11th, the committee chair sent an email to all committee members asking their approval vote for selecting Nicholas Ziats as committee chair for the following year (2019) or, if the committee member so chose, an alternative committee member's name for this role. Positive responses were received from 7 of the 13 committee members within 7 days indicating approval of Dr. Ziats. The remaining 6 members either did not respond or abstained. Therefore, Dr. Ziats will take on this role for the 2019 Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations.

## **Acknowledgements**

The chair wishes to thank the committee members for their assistance in meeting our charge given by the Society, especially for the well-attended and regularly scheduled teleconferences which facilitated our progress. Special acknowledgement of the Deputy Chair, Nicholas Ziats, is given for his assistance in discussions and editing of communications. Additionally the staff of Sigma Xi is thanked; Wanda Young for her tremendous assistance in continually handling the Committee documents and communications, and Jasmine Shah for her extensive knowledge of the Society's Bylaws, Constitution, and past history and precedence.

The business of the 2018 Committee on Nominations having been completed and its charge fulfilled, no additional meetings or communications are planned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michael Madden*

Michael Madden, PhD, Chair  
2018 Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations