



## **Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations 2019 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 comprised of 14 members including three past presidents, Tee Guidotti, Mark Peeples and Joseph Whittaker. The other voting members were Drs. Richard Bradley, Richard Byrne, Indrajit Chowdhury, Christopher Doona, Lori Eckhardt, Germano Iannacchione, Subrata Saha, Anna E. Sienko, Robert Youker, Hayriye (Merve) Yurdacan and Nicholas Ziats. Ms. Wanda Young and Ms. Alvina Street provided administrative support. Jamie Vernon, Sigma Xi Executive Director attended as a non-voting advisor.

### **2019 Committee Chair**

The 2018 Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations elected Dr. Nicholas Ziats as Committee Chair for 2019, prior to its adjournment. Drs. Richard Bradley and Robert Youker were nominated by Committee members by March 27, 2019 to serve as Deputy Chair for 2019 and Chair for 2020. By a vote of 5-4, Dr. Richard Bradley was approved and finalized through an email vote to serve as Deputy Chair in 2019 and Chair in 2020.

### **Meetings**

Meetings were held by teleconference, generally one hour in duration and there were six meetings from March 6 to June 26, 2019. The results from a Doodle poll sent to Committee members indicated that Wednesday's at 4:00-5:00pm (EST) was a favorable time for most members to attend. All calls achieved attendance producing a quorum and 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 2019 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 providing 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. In 2019, nominations were solicited from the general membership as well as from prior years and after candidates were approached by voting members.

## Selection of Candidates for President

Committee members were asked to solicit potential candidates for President-elect in 2019 and by the May 1, 2019 deadline, seventeen potential candidates were identified, including five women and two underrepresented minority candidates. Candidates were asked to submit a biosketch, curriculum vitae, candidate's statement (including discussion of diversity) 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.

At its meeting on March 27, 2019 it was decided by the Committee that each member would be assigned as a Liaison/Advocate to each potential candidate with follow-up emails or phone calls to confirm acceptance as well as obtaining the necessary information from each candidate. In addition, it was also decided that the final vote tabulations were to be determined by the both the Chair and Deputy Chair, independently, and then reconfirmed by both, before final presentation of the numerical and written comment evaluations to the Committee. By May 1, 2019, the candidate pool consisted of five candidates and these five were discussed at the meetings on May 15 and June 12, 2019, with qualifications of each discussed with a brief oral summary of each candidate's qualifications presented by the assigned Liaison and Committee discussion. 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 (and 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 final meeting on June 26, 2019. The ratings, additional and optional comments were compiled and summarized by the Chair and Deputy Chair and results were sent to committee members on June 25, 2019. The names of the committee members were coded to preserve anonymity.

The candidates' ratings were discussed on the June 26<sup>th</sup> teleconference and after deliberation, the committee voted unanimously to recommend two candidates for President-elect in 2019. The two candidates nominated to stand for election as President-elect in 2019 were **Dr. John Nemeth**, currently, President of Research and Education Consulting at CGJC Enterprises in Christianburg, Virginia (and former Sigma Xi Executive Director/CEO from 2015-2017) and **Dr. Robert Pennock**, Professor of History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science at Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan. Both candidates were sent letters to serve as President-Elect and both accepted by July 10, 2019. The Committee also expressed concern about candidates declining as well as diversity and indicated that if one of the candidates decided not to be further considered, then Dr. Anthony Guiseppi-Elie, Research Professor of Engineering from Texas A&M University would be the next candidate to be considered. All candidates not selected were also encouraged to be considered for future elections in a letter submitted to them. The business of the 2018-19 Committee on Nominations having been completed and its charge fulfilled, no additional meetings or communications are planned.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicholas P. Ziats, Ph.D., Chair  
2019 Committee on Nominations

Richard Bradley, Ph.D., Deputy Chair  
2019 Committee on Nominations, 2020 Committee on Nominations, Chair