



## **Committee on Nominations**

### **2020 Summary Report**

#### **Charge**

The 2020 Committee on Nominations (hereby referenced as the Committee) was responsible for selecting at least two nominees for President-Elect and forwarded to Sigma Xi Headquarters. No nominees for Treasurer were needed this year.

#### **Membership**

The Committee was comprised of fifteen members including three past presidents, Dr. Stuart Cooper, Dr. Tee Guidotti, and Dr. Mark Peeples. The other voting members were Drs. Robert Boily, Richard Bradley, Raymond Byrne, Indrajit Chowdhury, Lori Eckhardt, Germano Iannacchione, Loretta C. Johnson, W. Berry Lyons, John R. Sowa, Subrata Saha, C. Sue Weiler, and Robert Youker. Ms. Alvina Street provided administrative support. Jamie Vernon, Sigma Xi Executive Director, attended as a non-voting advisor.

#### **2020 Committee Chair**

The 2019 Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations elected Dr. Richard Bradley as Committee Chair for 2020, prior to its adjournment. In 2020, Dr. Lori Eckhardt was presented as the nominee for the deputy chair position on the Committee and unanimously approved appointment at the January 24, 2020 meeting.

#### **Meetings**

Meetings were held by teleconference, generally one hour in duration, on 01/24, 02/28, 03/06, 03/27, 04/10, 04/24, 05/01, and 05/08. The results from a Doodle poll sent to Committee members indicated that Fridays at 3:00-4:00pm (ET) 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 2020 Committee on Nominations. Documents were made available to the Committee by way of the program "Basecamp" which also provided a means for written communications.

#### **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. In 2020, nominations were solicited from the general membership as well as from prior years and after potential nominees were approached by voting members.



### Selection of Candidates for President

Committee members were asked to solicit potential nominees for President-elect in 2020 and by the March 6 meeting, the potential nominees were reviewed for basic qualifications and fifteen were approved to move forward in the process. A Committee liaison was assigned to each nominee. Nominees were asked to submit a biographical sketch, curriculum vitae, and candidate's statement (including discussion of diversity).

The liaisons made the initial contact with the nominees and this was followed up by an official letter of invitation from Sigma Xi. Four nominees accepted the invitation: Richard Boudreault, Cathryn Manduca, Nicholas Peppas, and John U. Trefny, and information packets were received by the April 15 deadline. At the April 10 meeting, the nominations process was officially closed on a motion carried by the Committee. At the April 24 meeting, Sue Weiler provided an oral synopsis of Dr. Cathryn Manduca, and Robert Boily provided an oral synopsis of Dr. Richard Boudreault. Similarly, at the May 1 meeting, Lori Eckhardt and Stuart Cooper provided synopsis of Drs. John Trefny and Nicholas Peppas, respectively. A detailed discussion of the nominee followed each synopsis.

Immediately after the May 1 meeting, rating forms were distributed to the Committee. These forms, developed by the 2013 Committee on Nominations, provide written ratings on ten different aspects of each candidate's qualifications and unweighted in terms of the importance of each attribute. Space is provided on the form for comments regarding the strengths and weaknesses of each nominee. Twelve completed rating forms were received by the Chair and Deputy Chair on or before the 8:00 pm (ET), Wednesday, May 6, 2020 deadline. The ratings were transferred to a spreadsheet for analysis which included an average of the numerical entries for each attribute ("ABS" entries were NOT assigned a numerical value and thus not included in the average). A score was obtained for each candidate by an unweighted average over the ten attributes. The Chair and Deputy Chair calculated these scores independently and arrived at the same values. The Chair created a summary sheet for each nominee that included the score, rank, and copies of the comments (anonymously) as provided by the Committee on the rating forms, and distributed these sheets to the Committee prior to the May 8 meeting.

At the May 8 meeting, the Chair briefly summarized the rating process and reviewed the scores. The nominees' ratings and attributes were discussed and after deliberation, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend two candidates for President-elect in 2020: **Dr. Nicholas Peppas** and **Dr. Richard Boudreault**. Both candidates were sent letters to serve as President-Elect and both accepted by May 14, 2020. The Committee agreed to recommend Drs. Cathryn Manduca and John Trefny for consideration in 2021 due to their strong ratings. The business of the 2020 Committee on Nominations having been completed and its charge fulfilled, no additional meetings or communications are planned.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard F. Bradley, Ph.D., Chair  
2020 Committee on Nominations

Lori Eckhardt, Ph.D., Deputy Chair  
2020 Committee on Nominations  
2021 Committee on Nominations, Chair