



2021 Report of the Committee on Nominations

Charge

The 2021 Committee on Nominations (hereby referenced as the Committee) was responsible for selecting at least two candidates for President-Elect and at least two candidates for Treasurer to stand for the November 2021 election.

To assist the Committee in its selection of treasurer candidates, the President of the Society, Dr. Sonya T. Smith, appointed an ad hoc search committee comprised of two members of the Committee on Nominations, Sue Weiler and Ray Byrne, a member of the Finance Committee, Ann Paterson, a Sigma Xi member Uvetta Dozier. Jasmine Shah served as staff liaison for the ad hoc committee (hereby referenced as the search committee). The search committee began meeting independently of the Committee on Nominations and provided the attached report of their work.

Committee on Nominations Membership

The Committee was comprised of fifteen members including three past presidents, Dr. Stuart Cooper, Dr. Tee Guidotti, and Dr. Joel Primack. Additional voting members included Drs. Lori Eckhardt as Chair, Robert Boily as Deputy Chair, Andrea Ashley-Oyewole, Raymond Byrne, Indrajit Chowdhury, Francis Dane, Julie Ealy, Bruce Fowler, Loretta C. Johnson, W. Berry Lyons, Subrata Saha, C. Sue Weiler. Ally Street provided administrative support. Jamie Vernon, Sigma Xi Executive Director, attended as a non-voting advisor.

2021 Committee Chair

Lori Eckhardt, former Deputy Chair of the Committee, began serving as the Committee Chair in November 2020. In January 2021, the Committee received nominations for the Deputy Chair and unanimously approved Robert Boily as the Deputy Chair for the 2021 Committee on Nominations.

Meetings

Committee meetings were held via video conference for generally one hour in duration. A kick-off meeting was held on January 14, 2021 with subsequent meetings held 02/11, 03/01, 03/25, 04/08, 04/22, 05/06, 5/13 and 5/20. A consensus of the Committee members indicated that Thursday at 4:30 – 5:30 pm (ET) was a favorable time for recurring meetings. Each scheduled meeting resulted in a quorum and minutes for each meeting were drafted by Sigma Xi staff and approved at subsequent meetings by the Committee. Due to the majority of members attending the meetings, it can be asserted that the conclusions and candidate selections validly represent the consensus of the elected members of the 2021 Committee on Nominations.



Documents were made available to the Committee by way of the program “Basecamp” which also provided a means for written communications between Committee members.

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. Throughout 2021, nominations were solicited from the general membership via community boards, Sigma Xi’s newsletters, and mass emails. A list of potential nominees previously presented to the Committee was reviewed and nominees who requested to be contacted this year were contacted. A call for nominations was featured in the Sigma Xi Today section of the January/February 2021 issue of *American Scientist*.

General Information:

During the February 11, 2021 meeting of the Committee, Joel Primack, Past President, shared his experience as a Sigma Xi president and insights on how to attract the best candidates.

Tee Guidotti agreed to edit the curriculum vitae requirements to provide clearer direction on what is required for consideration. It was determined that an abbreviated CV will be presented to the Committee and successful candidates should provide a full CV for Sigma Xi to keep on file. The abbreviated CV of the candidates will be presented to Sigma Xi’s membership.

It has since been noted that a video showing a nominee’s speaking ability should be provided to the Committee by potential nominees who have been advanced but prior to becoming a candidate. It was also suggested that the committee interview potential nominees prior to advancing them onto candidacy.

As explained in the Committee guidelines, a nominee statement should be provided with the initial submission of documents, and if a nominee is selected to advance toward candidacy the nominee will then provide a *candidate* statement that will be shared with Sigma Xi membership when the candidates are announced and posted on Sigma Xi’s website.

Discussions about providing pathways to leadership for nominees not selected by the committees were fruitful and will be considered.

Selection of Candidates for President

Committee members were asked to solicit potential nominees for President-elect. As members provided potential nominees the Committee reviewed each and advanced qualified individuals



accordingly. A Committee liaison was assigned to each nominee. The liaisons made the initial contact with the nominees which was followed by an official letter of invitation from Sigma Xi. Potential nominees were asked to submit a biographical sketch, curriculum vitae, photo, and nominee statement (including discussion of diversity).

The nominations process was officially closed on a motion carried by the Committee during the May 8 meeting.

Four well qualified individuals accepted the nominations and were approved to advance in the process. During the April 22 and May 8 meetings, liaisons presented a synopsis of their assigned potential nominees for consideration of the Committee. A detailed discussion of the nominees followed each synopsis.

Following the May 8, 2021 meeting, nominee ranking forms were distributed to Committee members. These forms, developed by the 2013 Committee on Nominations, provide written rankings on ten different criteria of each nominee's qualifications, and is unweighted in terms of the importance of each attribute. Space is provided on the form for committee members to provide additional comments regarding the strengths and weaknesses of each nominee.

8 out of 15 possible completed ranking forms were received by the Chair and Deputy Chair on or before the Tuesday, May 11, 2021 deadline. The deadline was extended to May 12, and an additional 4 completed rankings forms were received for a total of 12 out of 15 possible. The Chair and Deputy Chair transferred the rankings 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 nominee 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 13, 2021 meeting.

At the May 13, 2021 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 2021: **Dr. Marija Strojnik** and **Mr. Richard Boudreault**. Both candidates were sent letters to serve as President-Elect and both accepted the candidacy by May 20, 2021. The Committee agreed to recommend the other two nominees for consideration for the 2022 election.



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During the May 20, 2021 meeting, the Chair announced that several members of the Committee had requested a review of the rankings form for future use. The Deputy Chair indicated he would revisit the form prior to next year's Committee's work.

Selection of Candidates for Treasurer

On May 20, 2021, Ray Byrne, Chair of the Search Committee, presented three candidates for the treasurer's position to the members of the Committee on Nominations. The Committee approved the slate of candidates for treasurer as submitted by the Search Committee which includes: Dr. David Baker, and Dr. Anthony McGonon. The report of the Search Committee is attached.

The business of the 2021 Committee on Nominations having been completed and its charge fulfilled, no additional meetings or communications are planned unless a candidate withdraws or is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities at which time the committee will reconvene.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Robert Boily, Ph.D., Deputy Chair
2021 Committee on Nominations



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Attachment "A"
Report of the 2021
Ad Hoc Search Committee for Treasurer

To: Lori Eckhardt, Chair of the Committee on Nominations Sigma Xi
Robert Boily, Deputy Chair of the Committee on Nominations Sigma Xi

From: Raymond Byrne, Chair of the Committee on Finance Subcommittee on Nominations Sigma Xi

CC: Susan Weiler, Ann Paterson, Uvetta Dozier and Jasmine Shah

Date: May 19, 2021

Re: Nominations for Treasurer of Sigma Xi

Comments: The members of the Subcommittee on Nominations for the Committee on Finance met via teleconference on Thursday, April 15th to identify suitable candidates for Treasurer of Sigma Xi. The Subcommittee forwards the following three candidates for consideration by the Sigma Xi Committee on Nominations for the position of Sigma Xi Treasurer:

Dr. David W. Baker, President, David W. Baker & Associates, LLC, and current Sigma Xi Treasurer

Dr. Anthony McGoron, Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at the College of Engineering and Computing, Florida International University

Dr. Allison Augustus-Wallace, Associate Professor-Research and Director of Undergraduate Academic Pipeline Programs for Diversity, Louisiana State University