

Nominations Committee (NC) Report to ISOC Board of Trustees

The ISOC Board approved 6 members to serve on the NC this year, namely Alain Aina (AF), Keith Davidson (AP), Kurtis Lindqvist (EU), Raúl Echeberria (LAC), Rinalia Abdul Rahim (AP) and Rudi Vansnick (EU). Alain, Keith, Raúl and Rudi were board members at the time, but noted that Alain and Raúl were stepping down from the ISOC Board at the 2014 AGM.

On the closing date of nominations the NC had received 22 nominations for the ISOC Board, of which 19 were self-nominations and 3 were third party nominations. Of the 22 nominations, 8 were for organisations seats, 6 were for chapters seats and 8 were for “either”. There were 4 candidates each from Europe and Africa, 2 from North America, 1 from Latin America and 11 from Asia Pacific. It was interesting to note the change from last year where North America was the dominant region (with 12 of the 27 nominees). Only one woman was amongst the 22 nominees.

I know some members of the NC had been active in seeking to recruit nominees this year, and I was particularly active during the second half of 2013, at the IGF Bali, IETF Berlin, and ICANN South Africa meetings in encouraging nominations. For example I spoke to over 40 people from Africa, of which some 30 were women, and although several indicated some interest in serving the ISOC board, the very common reply, particularly from developing countries, was the express need to derive some income from performing the task. While the topic of board remuneration is beyond the scope of the NC, I would request the board does investigate the possibility of some form of voluntary recompense to board members, particularly if they are domiciled in an emerging economic country or territory.

While the geographic distribution of nominees is spread, it is disappointing there was no nominee from sub-saharan Africa, and even more disappointing at the incredible lack of gender balance. These issues must be addressed if the ISOC Board is to be considered a truly globally representative body.

The NC was again under pressure of time with the closing of nominations over the January period. The NC also awaited some clarification of eligibility and process from the Governance Committee.

The NC evaluated the nominees and noted a very distinct difference between the top 6 nominees, and the remaining 16. The remaining 16 nominees only met support from 0 to 2 of the NC committee (of 6 members) agreed to a shortlist and interviewed 10 nominees and then agreed a final slate of 8 to proceed to election. It was accepted by the NC that the top 6 candidates should be included on the slate, and since all were very well known to the NC members, and most had been interviewed in the 2013 nominations round, that it was not necessary and more expedient to proceed with these 6 nominees as the slate for election. The NC felt it would have been more desirable to have at least 1 more nominee for the Chapters slate, but agreed there were no further chapter nominees who could be considered of sufficient calibre to strengthen the board. The NC also agreed that there was not sufficient time to re-open nominations, and also that it would be inappropriate to “shoulder-tap” individuals.

These 6 nominees on the slate included 2 each from Europe and Asia Pacific, and 1 each from Latin America and north Africa. All 6 were male.

Recommendations:

- 1. That the 2014 Nominations Committee Report be received***
- 2. That the mailing list [Nominations2014] be closed and all records of this mailing list deleted / destroyed***

Keith Davidson
Nominations Committee Chair
12 May 2014