

Report of the Internet Society's 2012 Election Committee

Presented by Jason Livingood, Alain Aina and Theresa Swinehart

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Formation of the Committee

At the ISOC Board of Trustees meeting in Dakar, Senegal, the membership of the committee was approved by the Board and consists of:

- Alain Aina
- Jason Livingood, Chair
- Theresa Swinehart

Goal of the Committee

Three Trustees were to be elected for the period 2012-2015, two by ISOC Organisation Members, and one by ISOC Chapters. To achieve this we needed to coordinate with the Nominations Committee. We also were to coordinate with the Internet Architecture Board on one appointee by the IETF to ISOC.

Setting the Election Calendar

The timing of the Board of Trustees Nomination and Election processes was established by the Election Committee, in consultation with the Nomination Committee and Board. Based upon the possibility of the Board meeting in Vancouver, Canada in conjunction with the IETF meeting scheduled in July 2012, the Elections Committee and the Nominations Committee agreed on the following calendar, which was approved by the Board (later amended by an e-vote on November 27, 2011 and ratified at the January 16, 2012 Board meeting):

Item	Start Date	End Date
Nominations Committee Chairperson Solicits Feedback from the Board of Trustees on the Call for Nominations (Preferences, Qualifications, etc.)	Monday, September 26, 2011	Monday, November 14, 2011
Call for Nominations Runs (prior to IETF 82, Nov. 13 - 18, 2012)	Monday, November 14, 2011	Tuesday, January 31, 2012
Nominations Committee Deliberations (Review nominations, select candidates to interview)	Tuesday, January 31, 2012	Tuesday, February 14, 2012
Nominee Interviews Scheduled and Conducted By Nominations Committee	Tuesday, February 14, 2012	Thursday, March 15, 2012
Candidate Slate Finalized, Communicated to Board & Public	Thursday, March 15, 2012	Thursday, March 22, 2012
Candidate Slate Petition Period Runs	Thursday, March 22, 2012	Thursday, April 05, 2012
Final Candidate Slate Communicated to Board & Public	Thursday, April 05, 2012	Thursday, April 12, 2012
Candidates Complete Public Questionnaire	Thursday, April 12, 2012	Sunday, April 22, 2012
Ballots Posted, Voting Period Runs	Sunday, April 22, 2012	Wednesday, May 23, 2012
<i>Voting Reminder #1 Sent to Non-Voters</i>	<i>Monday, May 07, 2012</i>	<i>Monday, May 07, 2012</i>
<i>Voting Reminder #2 Sent to Non-Voters</i>	<i>Monday, May 14, 2012</i>	<i>Monday, May 14, 2012</i>
<i>Voting Reminder #3 Sent to Non-Voters (Final Reminder)</i>	<i>Sunday, May 20, 2012</i>	<i>Sunday, May 20, 2012</i>
Ballots Counted	Wednesday, May 23, 2012	Saturday, May 26, 2012
Results Certified, Communicated to Board of Trustees (on or before May 21, 2012 teleconference)	Saturday, May 26, 2012	Saturday, June 02, 2012
Results Communicated Individually to Candidates	Saturday, June 02, 2012	Sunday, June 03, 2012
Challenge Period Runs	Sunday, June 03, 2012	Sunday, June 10, 2012
Review of Challenges	Sunday, June 10, 2012	Sunday, June 17, 2012
Results Finalized, Communicated to Board and Public	Sunday, June 17, 2012	Sunday, June 24, 2012
Orientation Information Sent to New Board Members (schedule, briefing materials, etc.)	Sunday, June 24, 2012	Sunday, July 08, 2012

Voting Process

Based on the successful experience in previous elections, the Election Committee used an electronic, web-based voting system. BigPulse.com provided this system. Overall, the electronic voting system went well, with no objections raised at any time during or after the process.

Chapters

In the Chapter membership election, we had three candidates:

1. Gihan Dias
2. Sala Tamanikaiwaimaro
3. Rudi Vansnick

55 out of the 86 Chapters voted, which is a vote participation rate of 63.95%. In the previous election, the vote participation was 79.49%, on a group size of 78 chapters. So we have unfortunately a lower rate of chapter voting this year. For next year's Election Committee, we recommend that the Committee consider tactics to improve participation.

Rudy Vansnick received the highest number of the votes and has been elected for a three-year term.

Organisations

In the Organisation membership election, we had six candidates:

1. Keith Davidson
2. Marshall Eubanks
3. David Farber
4. Demi Getschko
5. Byron Holland
6. Bevil Wooding

52 of the 109 Organisation Members, or 47.71%, voted. They had the opportunity to vote for up to two candidates, with votes weighted by the class of membership. In the previous election the vote participation was 50.47%, on a group size of 107 organizations. So we have unfortunately had lower rate of organisation voting this year. For next year's Election Committee, we recommend that the Committee consider tactics to improve participation.

Keith Davidson and David Farber, receiving the largest weighted vote counts, have been elected for three-year terms.

Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)

Using the process documented in RFC 3677, the IAB has selected Eric Burger as the IETF appointee to the ISOC Board.

The appointee was selected by the IAB prior to the conclusion of the ISOC election. The IAB communicated the appointee to the Election Committee, which in turn communicated it to the Board. This information was kept confidential by both the Board and IAB until the ISOC election results were publicly communicated. The Election Committee communicated this appointment at the same times as it communicated election results.

Candidate Slate Petition Period

The candidate slate petition period was reduced in length this election cycle, from 30 or more days to 14 days. This was justified on the basis that such petitions can now be sent immediately using email, whereas the period was originally sent at a time when communications were more likely to have been sent via postal mail.

No petitions were received.

Challenge Period

The challenge period was reduced in length this election cycle, from just under 20 days to 7 days. This was justified on the basis that such challenges can now be sent immediately using email, whereas the period was originally sent at a time when communications were more likely to have been sent via postal mail.

No challenges were received.

Voting Reminders

As a tactic to increase voter participation, the Election Committee tried several new tactics, including:

1. Emailing the Chapters list and Organisation list on several occasions with reminders to vote.
2. Sending three reminders via email to voters, on May 7, 14, and 20, prior to the close of voting on May 23.

Candidate Forum

A wiki was again created in order to host biographies for each candidate at <http://www.internetsociety.org/candidates-2012-board-trustees-election>. In addition, a forum for posing questions to candidates was also created at <http://www.internetsociety.org/apps/wp/elections2012/>. The Election Committee proposed this list of questions, which was informally approved by the Board.

There were six questions posed, which is a reduction from the ten questions posed in the prior election. Not all of the candidates chose to answer each question and some responses were quite long.

Next Year's Election Schedule

The Election Committee recommends that a schedule of similar duration and structure be used next year. Jason Livingood has an Excel spreadsheet that can be used by the Election Committee next year that can automatically calculate all dates in the schedule based upon entry of a start date for the process.

Orientation and Seating of the New Board

New Trustees will have three orientation sessions. Two will occur prior to the Annual General Meeting, via teleconference and/or web conference. The third and final one will be face to face at the Annual General Meeting in Vancouver on 2 August 2012. The President/CEO and her staff will coordinate these orientation sessions, as in prior years.

Expressions of Thanks

The Election Committee thanks all of the nominees and candidates in the 2012 Internet Society Board of Trustees elections and for their continued support of the Internet Society.

The Committee thanks all of the ISOC staff that assisted in and supported this critical process. We particularly thank Peter Godwin and Julien Demierre, for their technical and administrative support in carrying out the voting process itself.