

**IT Society Nominations and Appointments Committee report**  
**February 6, 2011**

**Committee Members:** Andrea Goldsmith (*Ex-Officio* and Chair), Frank Kschischang (*Ex-Officio*), Dan Costello, Jim Massey, and Dave Neuhoff

**Background:** The Nominations and Appointments committee is responsible for staffing the Fellows, Shannon, Wyner, and Awards committees, as well as proposing a slate of candidates for the society BoG. The Shannon, Wyner, and Awards committees must be staffed by Jan. 31. The Fellows committee must be staffed by Oct 1 of the previous year according to the Bylaws, but in practice up until this year the committee was staffed by Jan 31, the same as for the other committees. This year that date was moved to Dec. 31 of the previous year. Hence, our committee started its work in early December and completed staffing of all committees by the Jan. 31 deadline.

**Changes from Previous Years:** In past years the Fellows Committee was staffed by Jan. 31, the same deadline as for the other committees. This year the deadline was moved up to Dec. 31 in order to give nominators more advanced notice of this committee membership. This is the first year that this earlier deadline was put in place. As a result, the work of our committee started in December, with intense deliberations throughout January to complete all committee staffing on time. In addition, our committee made a concentrated effort to ensure significant BoG representation (in addition to the officers) on committees and to have all BoG members serve the society in some substantial role, e.g. on a BoG committee. It would have been helpful to have more information about BoG member committee interest prior to staffing committees. That is the basis for the recommendation below.

*Recommendation: New and continuing BoG members should be canvassed about their committee interests following BoG elections in the fall, with this information conveyed to the incoming chair of the N&A Committee.*

**Shannon Award Selection Committee:** According to the Bylaws, the Claude E. Shannon Award Selection Committee consists of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President as *ex-officio* members, and four other members, at least three of whom are former Shannon Award winners, and at least one of whom is the current, or a former, Editor-in-Chief of the IT Transactions. In selecting these committee members, we continued the recent custom of carrying over non-officer members for a second year. The 2011 Shannon Award Selection Committee has the following membership:

Giuseppe Caire (Chair): President  
Muriel Medard: 1<sup>st</sup> VP  
Gerhard Kramer: 2<sup>nd</sup> VP  
Dick Blahut: new  
Robert Gallager: continuing  
Andrew Viterbi: new  
Jacob Ziv: new

*Recommendation: One challenge with staffing this committee was determining which of our members had served as an EiC in the past. We recommend that a list of past EiCs be created.*

**Wyner Award Selection Committee:** The requirements for the memberships of the Wyner Award Selection Committee were changed last year in the Bylaws as follows. Previously the 1<sup>st</sup> VP was an *ex-officio* member along with the President (Chair) and Junior Past President (JPP), whereas this year only the President and JPP were appointed as *ex-officio* members. In addition, in previous years only two members in addition to the *ex-officio* members were appointed to this committee, whereas this year three additional members were appointed, two of which were required to be former Wyner Award winners. The 2011 Wyner Award Selection Committee has the following membership:

Giuseppe Caire (Chair): President  
Frank Kschischang: JPP  
Toby Berger: new  
Tony Ephremides: new  
Paul Siegel: new

**Fellows Committee:** The Bylaws requirements for the Fellows committee, unchanged from prior years, is given as follows. The Committee consists of at least 5 IEEE Fellows who are ITSoc members and represent all its major technical areas. The members of the committee and its chair must be appointed by October 1st of the previous year. The 2011 Fellows Committee has the following membership:

Chair: Frans M.J. Willems (2nd year as chair)  
Marcelo Weinberger (3rd year)  
Hideki Imai (3rd year)  
Michelle Effros (2nd year)  
Rolf Johannesson (2nd year)  
Rob Calderbank (1st year)  
Alon Orlitsky (1st year)

*Discussion:* Despite the Bylaw requirement to form this committee by Oct. 1 of the previous year, the Fellows committee in past years was appointed by Jan. 31, which coincides with the deadline when the IEEE requires the name and contact information of the Fellows Committee Chair. Some Society members had requested that the Fellows Committee membership be known earlier, at the time they begin the Fellows nomination process in December. An earlier formation of the Fellows committee was recommended by last year's N&A committee. Hence, this year the committee was formed by Dec. 31. This could probably be moved up by a few weeks as little happens at the end of December. Also, last year's chair had asked for more members to be appointed so as to add more breadth to the committee. Thus, while 5 members plus a chair were appointed last year; this year 6 members plus a chair were appointed, which is two more members than required in the Bylaws. In addition, a staggered rotation of 3-year member terms has now been fully implemented, and this should be captured in the Bylaws (the chair typically serves longer since he/she is typically appointed to a three-year chair term after serving on the committee as a regular member for a year or two).

*Recommendation: The Bylaws should be updated to reflect current practice on this committee. The deadline for forming the committee should be changed from Oct. 1 to a December date, either Dec. 15 or Dec. 31. The number of committee members should be increased, and the staggered rotation captured, in the revised Bylaws.*

**Awards Committee:** The Bylaws specifies that the Awards Committee consists of at least nine members representing all major technical areas in the Society. The First and Second Vice Presidents serve as *ex-officio* members of this Committee, with the First Vice President serving as Chair. At least four members must have served as Associate Editors of the Transactions within the past three years, and at least two members of the Committee (in addition to the two officers) must be BoG members. The last requirement is a new change this year that was recommended by last year's N&A Committee. In recent years the committee size has been eleven, including *ex-officio* members. The 2011 Awards Committee has the following membership:

Muriel Medard (Chair): 1<sup>st</sup> VP

Gerhard Kramer: 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

Ian F Blake: new

Max Costa: 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Elza Erkip: 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Ping Li: 2<sup>nd</sup> year

Amin Shokrollahi: new

Emina Soljanin: new

David Tse: new

Alexander Vardy: new

Gregory Wornell: new

Hirosuke Yamamoto: 2<sup>nd</sup> year

- *Final Discussion:* The Bylaw changes recommended above, and any others throughout the year, will be proposed at the fall BoG meeting. The timeframe to complete three major committees within the month of January was quite compressed. The committee discussed whether the N&A should start the staffing process for all the committees earlier than January. There was no consensus on this issue, and perhaps it is best left to the N&A Committee Chair to decide. However, the officer's task list should perhaps add this as a suggestion for N&A chairs that prefer to spread the workload over a longer period of time. Other potential changes for the Bylaws include adding the Student and Online Committees as standing committees, and possibly forming new committees associated with IEEE and non-IEEE awards such as the Baker Prize or the BBVA Foundation Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Communications and Information Technologies.