

2013 IT Fellows Selection Committee

Committee Members: Helmut Boelcskei, Andrea Goldsmith, Alon Orlitsky, Tom Richardson, Raymond Yeung, Rami Zamir

Chair: Robert Calderbank

Report by the Chair to the IT Society Board of Governors: July 7, 2013

The Committee provided IEEE with a rank ordering of the 14 candidates a week before the June 15 deadline.

This year the evaluation process started with a little blind preprocessing.

Committee Members were asked to partition the candidates into thirds, a top, middle and lower tier. The Chair collected the partitions and represented each candidate as a histogram – so [7, 0, 0] and [0, 0, 7] represent candidates for whom we have achieved consensus, and [2, 4, 1] represents a candidate we need to discuss and to understand better. The candidate histograms were then ordered lexicographically and shared with the Committee.

This is the process I introduced when chairing the Fellows Committee for COMSOC and it is now part of their formal process (<http://www.comsoc.org/about/documents/pp/6.2.1>). The objective is to help consensus emerge quietly.

I then organized email discussion of the candidates by assigning each candidate in the middle group to a committee member and asking the responsible committee member to lead the email discussion by drafting and circulating a succinct description of the candidate's outstanding contributions. The same process was then initiated for candidates in the upper and lower ranges

After the discussion was completed Committee Members assigned numerical scores and I think the Committee viewed the initial preprocessing positively.

If the Committee continues to look positively on this preprocessing we might propose making it part of the formal process for the IT Society.

Respectfully submitted

Robert Calderbank