

Steve, Pete,

After the problems with the PSPB N&A Committee's handling of the EIC of PIEEE nomination, I have several questions, comments and a couple of suggestions about the process.

First the nomination process for EIC of PIEEE.

The ops manual says

3.5.3 Appointment of the Editor-in-Chief

The Editor-in-Chief of the PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE and the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE PRESS are nominated by their respective boards. Their names shall be submitted to PSPB Nominations & Appointments Committee who shall in turn submit to PSPB for appointment.

It does not say how the boards will make the nominations. I followed the past process (to the best of my knowledge) and found candidates who had excellent records of board service and asked them if they wanted to be nominated. They filled out the nomination form and I wrote a letter to the N&A Committee giving my evaluation of the nominees. After the deadline for nominations, I discovered via the "grapevine" that there was another nominee, Gianluca Setti. I do not understand how this nomination was made.

The manual says

The Editor-in-Chief shall chair the PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE Editorial Board and shall represent the Board on PSPB.
The Editor-in-Chief shall have served as a member of the PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE Editorial Board prior to being elected the Editor-in-Chief.

If I am the editorial board's representative to the PSPB, how could I not know of a nominee? Am I not the conduit for the nominations from the board to the N&A Committee?

I don't think there has been such a case, but you may know of one. It would seem that the process of nominating people for the EIC of PIEEE (and Access) should be better defined, if such nominations can be made without the PIEEE Editorial Board's knowledge.

Incidentally, I will recommend that the EIC of the PIEEE make an explicit call for volunteers or nominations for the next EIC via email to the PIEEE Editorial Board. That way, there will be no impression of someone being overlooked.

I was told that EIC nominees needed to be on the current editorial board of the PIEEE, when I asked about possible candidates for the position. I don't see this in the requirements. I don't see a good reason why some past editorial board members might not make good EICs. Please clarify.

Second, the N&A Nomination Process.

The ops manual says

4.1.3 PSPB Nominations and Appointments Committee Charter

A. GENERAL

The PSPB Nominations and Appointments Committee is an organizational unit of, and reports to, PSPB.

B. SCOPE

The PSPB Nominations and Appointments Committee is responsible for managing the nominations and appointments process of the PSPB.

C. FUNCTIONS

The PSPB Nominations and Appointments Committee shall:

- 1 **Make recommendations to PSPB for nominees to fill upcoming Member-at-large vacancies.**
2. Make recommendations to an incoming PSPB Chair for pending appointments on PSPB Committees and task assignments for Members-at-large.
3. Make recommendations to PSPB for Editorial-Board members on the IEEE SPECTRUM Advisory Board, PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE Editorial Board, IEEE PRESS Board, and THE INSTITUTE Editorial Advisory Board.
4. **Make recommendations to PSPB for Editors-in-Chief of the PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE and the IEEE PRESS.**
5. Following consultation with PSPB, make recommendations to the IEEE Nominations and Appointments Committee for individuals qualified to be considered for Vice President – Publication Services and Products.

I don't understand why these "recommendations" are handled in entirely different ways. In the case of the members-at-large, all candidates are given an opportunity submit a statement of qualifications and to speak, although I think their statements of qualifications should be sufficient. The PSPB is then allowed to question the candidates and to discuss them in a closed meeting. A vote is taken then to elect the members-at-large. In the case of the EIC of IEEE and Access, a single candidate is presented to the PSPB. There is no mention of the other nominees submitted to the N&A Committee. There is no possibility to discuss the relative merits of the various candidates. I don't see that the ops manual prohibits a difference in handling the cases, but I think it would be beneficial to make such a difference clear. I would also appreciate a rationale for the difference.

Third – Staff consultations

The ops manual says

5.5.2 Committee Consultation with IEEE Staff

It is expected that the PSPB N&A Committee will consult with the Managing Director, IEEE Publications, as well as the Staff Editors of IEEE SPECTRUM, PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE, IEEE PRESS, and THE INSTITUTE, in regard to member and Editor-in-Chief recommendations.

This indicates to me that the N&A Committee would have contacted the Managing Editor of the PIEEE about all nominees. Is this correct?

I doubt that this occurred in the current case, since the Managing Editor of the PIEEE was aware of my objections to Gianluca's nomination. She could have validated my statistics of poor participation on the proposal review process. Yet Sheila indicated that the N&A Committee agreed to consider my second letter, which was amended to include an evaluation of Gianluca, along with the other three nominees for EIC, as if my objections were new information. If they already knew of my objections, there would be nothing new to discuss.

A comment on renewal of the EIC's term of three years. In the case that the EIC is up for renewal, it appears to be required that a second candidate is required to be put forward. This is quite awkward. Assuming all is going well, we have to get someone to volunteer to act as a place-holder with no desire or chance of getting elected. This is a waste of everyone's time. How about have the PIEEE Editorial Board conduct a "vote of confidence" for the EIC and if there is a significant majority, e.g., > 75%, supporting the EIC continuing, simply put forward a single name, along with the vote. That name can be discussed at by the PSPB in June and if there is a problem, another candidate can be put forward in November.

Thanks
Joel