

To: Board of Governors
IEEE Education Society

From: James Rowland, Chair
Fellows Evaluation Committee

Date: October 23, 2015

As reported at the June BoG meeting, our ES Fellows Committee completed our work for the 2016 cycle (Fellows elected effective January 1, 2016) in the April to early June timeframe. My job as Chair was to transmit the Committee ratings and consolidate their written remarks on each nominee to the IEEE Fellows Committee before the June 15 deadline, which was easily met. Normally, the IEEE Fellows Committee announces their results late in November each year. Our congratulations can be extended to our successful candidates within the next month to six weeks.

Details for our committee operations tend to change from year to year, enough to require the Chair to participate in the teleconference training sessions and keep up with the new variations. This year, the System Matrix had been programmed to block the appointment of any potential Society committee member who had served as a reference or nominator of any candidate being considered by that Society's Fellow Committee. Previously, we had handled possible conflicts of interest within the Committee deliberations. We have traditionally appointed one Committee member from each of the ten Regions but one or more of those ten potential members could be blocked in a given year because of the possible conflict of interest identified by the System Matrix. A second variation this year was that only five Committee members could be appointed without a special request from the Chair to add others. We added two others. Our Committee this year had seven Committee members make the consensus decisions on all candidates referred to the Committee, more than the required minimum of five, but fewer than the full complement of ten normally appointed. A third variation this year was that Committee members were not allowed to change their initial ratings, so most decided to wait until after the Conference Call in May to enter their numbers into the System.

The Committee procedure is that the Chair is appointed (or reappointed) each year by the Education Society President, and the Committee Chair appoints/reappoints Committee members. Advice from the Society President (or a past President) is always welcomed. Preference has been given to reappointments over the years; new members come on board when a member from the past year decides not to continue. This Committee operates extremely well, very cordial and respectful of all opinions and evaluations of others on the Committee. Consensus on each candidate has been virtually unanimous in every case. It is a pleasure for me as Chair to work with this Blue Ribbon committee of volunteers.