

## Report of the ISOC 2006 Election Committee

The Internet Society

July 1, 2006

### *The election cycle and Committee activities*

#### Formation of the committee

At the ISOC Board of Trustees meeting in Paris on August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005, I was appointed as chair of the Election Committee. The membership of the committee, which I proposed, was approved by the Board via electronic vote, and consists of (in random order):

Veni Markovski, Chair  
George Sadowsky (USA)  
Alan Greenberg (Canada)  
Dessi Pefeva (Bulgaria)  
Ramon Morales (Puerto Rico)  
Sinan Oymaci (Turkey)  
Richard St. Clair (Niue)

Three Trustees were to be elected for the period 2006-2009, two by ISOC Organizational Members, and one by ISOC Chapters. As in the 2005 elections, there were no elections of Trustees by paying individual members because the paying individual member program has not yet gotten off the ground.

#### Setting the election calendar

The ISOC by-laws set out a set of criteria for the timing of the Board of Trustees Nomination and Election processes. Based upon the possibility of the Board meeting in Marrakesh in conjunction with the ICANN meeting scheduled to be held there during July 1-2, 2006, we (the EC and the NomCom) proposed the following election calendar which was approved by the Board:

Call for Nominations	1-December-05
Nomination Period Closes	10-January-06
Candidates Announced, Petition Period Opens	07-February-06
Petition Period Closed	10-March-06
Ballot completed	23-March-06
Ballots Posted (e-mail)	30-March-06
Election Date	29-April-06
Certification of Election	09-May-06
Challenge Period Closes	29-May-06
Response to Challenges	18-June-06
New Trustees Seated	01-July-06

#### Establishing the ballot

On February 8 (and edited on Feb 16), 2006, the Nominating Committee announced the following slates:

Candidates for Organizational Membership Election (in alphabetical order):

**Bill St Arnaud, Canada**  
**David Isenberg, USA**  
**Baoping Yan, China**  
**Gerri Sinclair, Canada**  
**Spencer Dawkins, USA**

Candidates for the Chapters Election:

**Richard Bell, Kenya**  
**Franck Martin, Fiji**

During the petition process, **two petitions was received**, from **Artur Serra** and from **Rudi Vansnick** to be candidates in the Chapters Election. The Nominating Committee certified that the requisite number of chapters had signed the petition of Artur Serra, and he was added to ballot for the Chapters Election. Rudi Vansnick did not get enough supporters for his petition to be included in the ballot.

#### Determining voter eligibility

ISOC staff members and officers David McAuley and Terry Weigler assisted the Elections Committee in determining voter eligibility. Based upon the criteria established in the election procedures, it was determined that there were 74 organizational members eligible to participate in the voting and 74 chapters eligible to vote.

#### The candidates' forum.

Like in 2005, the Election Committee encouraged discussion among the candidates regarding their opinions on issues which might reasonably come before the Board and therefore before them if they were elected to serve as a Trustee. A special e-mail address was established to which members could send questions and issues that they wished to be put to the candidates.

The web site with the Q&A was advertised to the ISOC community as being viewable by anyone. Candidates were being sent the questions, and were given enough time to respond. Electors were encouraged to pay attention to the views expressed by the candidates, and not to vote until the Forum had concluded and they had discussed the candidates' positions with their respective constituencies.

In order to allow for reconsideration of views and votes as a result of the discussion, the Committee requested that the Board change one aspect of the rules for voting. After a lengthy discussion, the Board agreed on the change at its meeting in Utrecht. We are happy to announce, that although such an opportunity was given to organizational members and chapters, they preferred to wait until the last days of the elections, before casting their votes.

Seven questions were posted on the Forum, and most candidates responded to all of the questions. It's good to point that the people who were elected, had responded to all questions.

The fact that the forum has being read, is seen in the number of votes cast in the last week of the elections (see attached list at the end of the document)

#### Complaint during the elections process

During the elections month – April – a formal complaint was issued by Artur Serra, and complaint letters were received also by some other members of the chapters' delegates list, in response to an e-mail by Franck Martin, urging chapters to vote. While Franck's letter was not a direct campaigning, it was still considered by many a self-advertisement. All letters were forwarded to the President of the Society, who is responsible for evaluating such complaints. Based on the lack of further comments, Artur has accepted this solution.

#### Ballot structure, processing, counting and results

Discussions started in early spring with ISOC staff regarding the mechanics of the balloting. Staff first recommended voting through a web interface and special software, but then reverted to an e-mail based on using simpler solutions, accessible to all voters. Given the anticipated volume of ballots — perhaps about 100 total —, and that there were potential security issues with the proposed web voting methodology, it was decided that manual processing of e-mail ballots was the most efficient way to proceed.

On March 30, 2006, ballots were e-mailed from ISOC Headquarters to all primary designated voting representatives for both elections. Embedded in each e-mail ballot was a unique validation number, formatted as a letter followed by a 5-digit semi-random number, that would serve to confirm the authenticity of their completed ballot.

On May 1, 2006, Ramon Morales, George Sadowsky, and Veni Markovski went to ISOC Headquarters to count the ballots. The process was constructed so that it would not be possible for anyone involved in the process to determine the relationship between the voter and the vote cast. There were no anomalies in the voting process. There were two votes, which came after the end date (April 29), and a third vote was received on May 2. These votes would have not changed the outcome of the elections.

Results were tabulated using a spreadsheet, applying the appropriate weights in the case of organizations. The results are:

For the Organizational Member election:

Baoping Yan 51 votes  
Bill St. Arnaud 38 votes  
Gerri Sinclair 33 votes  
David Isenberg 28 votes  
Spencer Dawkins 13 votes

Accordingly, Baoping Yan and Bill St. Arnaud are elected to a three year term on the Board of Trustees.

For the Chapters election:

Franck Martin 17 votes

Artur Serra 16 votes

Richard Bell 5 votes

Accordingly, **Franck Martin** was elected to three year term on the Board of Trustees.

It is of interest and concern for the Election Committee to compare participation rates for the last three years:

This year, for the election of Trustees by Organization Members, 74 members were eligible to vote and 28 ballots were received. The corresponding numbers for 2005 were 77 eligible and 37 ballots received. The corresponding numbers for 2004, were 88 eligible and 47 received.

This year, for the election of Trustees by Chapters, 74 members were eligible to vote and 38 ballots were received. Last year, for the election of Trustees by Chapters, 75 members were eligible to vote and 43 ballots were received. The corresponding numbers for last year, 2004, were 75 eligible and 39 received.

The results were announced immediately, first to the candidates and to the Board, and then to the members.

As part of ISOC's election process, one member of the Board is named by the IETF, through selection by the Internet Architecture Board (IAB) and confirmation by the IESG. We are pleased to be able to announce that **Patrik Fältström** was appointed for a three year term on the Internet Society Board of Trustees.

#### Challenge period.

The Society's by-laws provide for a period of time after the announcement of the election results for those results to be challenged by certain people. Challenges are directed to the ISOC President. No challenges were received.

#### *Suggestions for future elections processes*

1. We are pleased to announce that the "first vote counts" policy was changed, and it did not have the expected by previous BoT disastrous effect. In fact, since no one changed their vote, we believe it's a good feature to keep for the future.
2. We are sure that the Candidates Forum is a useful tool. Some complaints were received during the publications of the questions by some of the Trustees and VPs, that the questions are biased. The results, however, prove that the formula of publishing unedited or little edited questions, was a good one. The candidates who chose to respond to the questions, were elected.
3. The paying individual members system didn't pass the threshold level. It seems that it will not start working at all. A few years after it started, there are less than 80 paid members (somewhat 15 % of what's required in order for them to be allowed to vote.

4. Extending the nominations period from 4 to 6 weeks turned out to be a good idea. Although that in the middle of this term were all major holidays – Christmas and New Year, it was a good idea, brought to our attention by the 2005 EC.
5. The responses from Peter Godwin sometimes were late, because he is based in Geneva, and when a fast reaction was needed, it would be difficult to obtain it after work hours.
6. The number of voters is decreasing steadily. ISOC does not seem to be attractive for members to vote. See attached list for voters / time of votes cast. ISOC has to address this issue, if it wants the elections to be considered normal. In the 2006 elections less than only 37 % of the voters of the Organizational members cast their vote, which in normal democratic traditions, will be considered not enough for a legitimate vote. With the chapters, the situation is a little bit better – but still only 51 % of all eligible chapters cast their votes. ISOC Board should address this issue and find a solution.
7. Check which chapters are really existing, and which organizational members really care about ISOC, and why they didn't vote.

*Expressions of thanks for assistance*

The Committee wishes to thank all of the candidates for their willingness to be considered, and hopes that those who were not elected will find ways to contribute meaningfully to the work of the Internet Society.

The Committee wishes to thank the ISOC staff, particularly David McAuley, Terry Weigler and Peter Godwin, for their technical and administrative support in carrying out the voting process.

Respectfully submitted

Veni Markovski  
Chair Elections Committee

July 1, 2006

*Attachment enclosed – as per description above, see next page*

Attachment 1.

List of voters and time their votes were cast:

Voting time frame Org (28) / Chapter(38):

March 30 - April 5	2 / 4
April 6 - April 12	6 / 6
April 13 - April 19	2 / 0
April 20 - April 26	9 / 15
April 27 - April 29	9 / 13

Chapter Vote - Election 2006

ISOC Argentina  
ISOC Australia  
ISOC Belgium  
ISOC Belgium Wallonia  
ISOC Benin  
ISOC Bulgaria  
ISOC Canada Quebec  
ISOC Colombia  
ISOC Ecuador  
ISOC Egypt  
ISOC England  
ISOC Finland  
ISOC France  
ISOC Germany  
ISOC Ghana  
ISOC Hong Kong  
ISOC Hungary  
ISOC Israel  
ISOC Italy  
ISOC Japan  
ISOC Luxembourg  
ISOC Mali  
ISOC Mauritius  
ISOC Mexico  
ISOC Morocco  
ISOC Nigeria  
ISOC Norway  
ISOC Pacific Islands  
ISOC Poland  
ISOC Puerto Rico  
ISOC Senegal  
ISOC Spain  
ISOC Spain Catalan  
ISOC Spain Galicia  
ISOC Spain Madrid  
ISOC Sweden  
ISOC Turkey Istanbul  
ISOC USA Washington DC