Internet Society
Elections Committee 2016/2017
Final Report to the Board of Trustees

The Elections Committee is happy to present its final report to the Board of Trustees.

For the 2017 the Internet Society Board of Trustees elections there was one trustee elected by the Internet Society Organizational Members and two by the Internet Society Chapters. Both groups had three candidates for election.

Further, one trustee was elected by the IAB (Internet Architecture Board) for the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) by a separate process.

The 2016/2017 Elections Committee comprised Harish Pillay(chairman), Walid AI-Saqaf, Narelle Clark and Kathy Brown (ex-officio).

Nominations opened on 28 October 2016, and closed on 16 October 2016. Following the nominations process, the candidate slates comprising **Hiroshi Esaki**, **Paul Rendek**, and **Elizabeth Longworth** for the Organizational Members, **Glenn McKnight**, **Hans Peter Dittler** and **Gihan Dias** for the Chapters, were announced on 27 January 2017. There were no petitions for additional candidates and so on 27 February 2017, the list of candidates were confirmed.

As in past years a short biography of each candidate was posted on the Internet Society website (https://www.internetsociety.org/2017-board-trustees-nominees).

To encourage easier and open communications between the candidates and the constituents, two mailing lists were created, one each for the organizational members and chapters.

The initial discussions were kicked off with three questions posed by the Election Committee and the candidates' answers which were then posted to mailing lists. We received the assistance of ISOC Staff to populate the mailing lists with the email IDs of the respective candidates and constituents. The welcome message sent out included information on how to unsubscribe if the mailing list participants so desired.

There was some activity on the mailing lists and were generally well within the norms of an informed and engaging discussions.

We did continue with the "Active campaigning . . . is discouraged" stand as specified in election procedures, but that did not hinder the reasonably spirited discussions on the mailing lists.

ISOC Staff sent out the ballots to the various voters. We did encounter some invalid email IDs, but they were quickly fixed. Both the ISOC Staff and myself reached out directly to those organizations and chapters to get the voting individuals properly identified and entered into our elections system.

Big thank you to the ISOC Staff on ensuring that the voting process running smoothly and without a glitch.

Voting closed on April 10 2017 at 1500 UTC.

No challenges were received by the President during the appeals period. The following persons were elected in the 2017.

Trustees election (final results announced April 27, 2017):

Chapters
Glenn McKnight was elected by Chapters with 58 votes followed by **Hans Peter Dittler** who was re-elected receiving 39 out of the 89 votes cast. There are 119 chapters and this gives a 74.79% participation in this year's election.

Each Chapter had one vote to cast. A list of all Chapters eligible to vote in the election, indicating which Chapters exercised their voting privilege, is available on the chapters forum in Connect.

Organizations
Hiroshi Esaki was re-elected by Organizational Members receiving 91 weighted votes out of 221 weighted votes cast.

Each Organizational Member could cast two votes and each of the votes had a weight of between 1 and 6 based on the membership category.

In this elections, 75 out of 111 Organizational Members (67.57%) voted.

The Internet Engineering Taskforce (IETF). Following the process documented in RFC 3677, the IAB selected and the IESG confirmed **Sean Turner** to serve as Internet Society trustee.

Term of Office

The term of office for all four of the new Trustees will be three years, commencing with the Internet Society's Annual General Meeting in June 2017.

Voting Statistics 2013 - 2017

The results of election participation over the last five years are as follows:

2017: 89 out of 119 Chapters (74.79%) voted. 75 out of 111 Organizational Members (67.57%) voted.
2016: 79 out of 114 Chapters (69%) voted. 75 out of 132 Organizational Members (57%) voted.
2015: 88 out of 105 Chapters (84%) voted. 74 out of 119 Organizational Members (62%) voted.
2014: 74 out of the (then) 100 Chapters (74%) voted. 87 of the (then) 150 Organizational Members (58%) voted.
2013: 72 out of the (then) 91 Chapters (79%) voted. 95 of the (then) 142 Organizational Members (67%) voted.

From the figures above, both Chapters and Organizational Members did increase their participation rates in this year's election. That is a good sign and should be acknowledged and encouraged.

The feedback of this year's elections process has been very positive and the switch to the mailing lists for discussions meant that there were no challenges in access. Very few people unsubscribed from the respective mailing lists.

The voting system offers abstentions and this year there were 2 abstentions from the Chapters and 5 from Organizational Members. While it is acceptable for voters to abstain, it would be useful to find out why that happens. We should monitor this to ensure that the numbers don't increase in following years.

In order to further improve the Board of Trustees election process we recommend that the 2017/2018 Elections Committee consider the following for possible incorporation into the elections process:

1. Review the "no campaigning" statement and replace it with one that encourages active communication and discussions between the candidates and their respective constituencies. This may include a webinar to introduce the candidates and even to hold a town hall like meeting.
2. Continue with the use of the mailing lists as this has shown to be very easy to use and manage.
3. Review the voting modes (multiple/two votes, weighted votes) to make them clear and obvious for the voters. Add more descriptive text in voting invitations.

As noted earlier, I would like to register my heartfelt thanks to all the ISOC Staff involved in the elections process (BigPulse voting system, Internet Society website and mailing lists). These were all done with a quick turn around regardless of day of the week.

I would want to register a very special thank you to to Kevin Craemer as our Board Liaison who provided splendid support to the election committee. The notes, the respective timelines made the entire process flow flawlessly.

On behalf of the 2016/2017 Elections Committee,

Harish Pillay
Chairman, Elections Committee
24 May 2017