

# **Nominating Committee: Proposed Slate of Candidates and Activity Report for Consideration at 2013 Winter Policy Council**

## **Proposed Slate of Candidates**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate for the consideration of Policy Council the candidates listed below for Officers and Policy Council Members to take office. All candidates have been approached by the Chair and, I am delighted to say, have agreed to having their name passed forward by the Committee, and to take up office, subject to approval via the Society's established process.

## **Proposed Slate of Candidates to Take Office 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014**

Policy Council Member 1:	Jim Duggan (new appointment 2014-2016)
Policy Council Member 2:	Warren Farr (new appointment 2014-2016)
Policy Council Member 3:	Elke Husemann (new appointment 2014-2016)
Policy Council Member 4:	David Wheat (new appointment 2014-2016)
Vice-president Chapter Activities:	Martin Schaffernicht (re-appointment 2014-2016)
Vice-president Finance:	David Andersen (re-appointment 2014-2016)
President:	Jürgen Strohhecker (new appointment 2015. Associated roles as President-elect 2014 and Past-president 2016)

## **Proposed Candidates to Take Office with Immediate Effect**

Policy Council Member:	Warren Farr (new appointment 2013)
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# **Activity Report**

## **1. Posts to be filled**

The committee was required to find candidates for the following Society roles:-

- Four nominations for three year terms, 2014–2016.
- One nomination for the partial term of 2013.
- Nomination for Vice-president Chapter Activities for 2014-2016.
- Nomination for Vice-president Finance for 2014-2016.
- Nomination for President 2015 (and, consequentially, President-elect 2014 and Past-president 2016)

## **2. Comment on the Selection Process Used**

Policy Council: The Society holds a rolling list of all who have expressed interest in PC membership and/or have been nominated by other SDS members. The Committee's first responsibility is therefore to bring this list fully up to date, both as regards individuals and as regards the accuracy of information about them. The Committee then decided which individuals were not qualified for PC membership (see 4 below). From the remainder, Committee members were each invited by the Chair to propose names for a 'long list' of candidates. The committee then discussed this long list before moving to votes using Borda Counting. The final results were circulated to all Committee members and there were no ambiguities or marginal decisions. It is worth recording that the Chair chose not to take part in voting for PC members on this occasion. The reasons for this will be understood. However, I hope that this will not be taken as a precedent. Indeed, in the past, the Chair has not only voted along with other members but has also been able to provide a casting vote in the case of ties. I hope that that *modus operandi* will hold in the future.

President: Both the President (David Ford) and the Committee Chair received a nomination for Jürgen Strohhecker, this coming from outside the Committee. Since Jürgen was a member of the Committee, as Chair I proposed that he withdraw from all discussion regarding the selection of the President. He agreed to this and was excluded from all subsequent Committee discussions regarding this post (which included discussions regarding other candidates). He did, however, participate fully in all discussions regarding the other posts and nominations recorded here.

## **3. Information on New Appointments**

Jim Duggan - National University of Ireland (Galway), frequent Thread Chair for Methodology at ISDCs

Warren Farr - President of durable goods wholesale business; experienced with small/medium entrepreneurial enterprises.

Elke Husemann - Program Co-chair at the ISDC held in St Gallen in 2012; winner in 2007 of the Jay Wright Forrester Award.

David Wheat - University of Bergen with interests in education and economics. Frequent Thread Chair for Economics at ISDCs.

Jürgen Strohhecker - In this case I think that it is worth reproducing the nomination that David Ford and I received:-

*"I would like to nominate Juergen Strohhecker as President of our Society for 2015.*

*Juergen is Professor of Management at The Frankfurt School of Finance & Management, Germany, and a longtime System Dynamicist. He is President of the German Chapter of System Dynamics. He accompanied the European System Dynamics Workshops from their very beginning and organized the last of these meetings in Frankfurt at his university. He is a regular participant of our International Conferences with well received presentations.*

*I am convinced, Juergen would be an excellent President of the SDS."*

Further information can be found at:

[http://www.frankfurt-school.de/content/en/who\\_we\\_are/staff/strohhecker.html](http://www.frankfurt-school.de/content/en/who_we_are/staff/strohhecker.html)

#### **4. A Note on Selection Criteria for PC**

The committee considered the Society criteria for PC membership. In fact, there are few hard rules – other than an individual's being a member in good standing. The committee therefore chose to deploy an approach which was flexible within broadly drawn criteria. Whilst not wishing to bind future Nominating Committees, Appendix 1 records the criteria used in the 2012 deliberation. The remark in the following section is also included in that Appendix.

#### **5. Recommendation Regarding Partial Term Candidates**

The movement of individuals into other Society offices necessitates the interruption of PC terms of office and the concomitant creation of partial terms. These may well be filled by new appointments. The question is then: what should be done with those who have successfully contributed to the SDS as PC members but who are finishing a term of less than the normal three years? This situation arose in 2012 with a 'partial term PC member' asking to be considered for re-appointment.

The Committee considered the relative merits of retaining valued PC members and the counter-balancing wish to refresh PC and give other members the opportunity to serve. It found merits in both sides of this argument. However, as the results this year show, the Committee is minded to suggest a new guideline: all individuals who have successfully served on PC for less than a full term should be automatically considered as very strong

candidates for a subsequent full term. The operational consequences are considered in Appendix 1.

## **6. Future work**

One new expression of interest in PC membership was received after the Committee had completed its deliberations in early December. This will be added to the list and will be passed on to the next Chair.

Both David Ford (as President 2012) and Kim Warren (then as President-elect 2012) expressed interest in developing the role of Associate Vice-president and asked the Nominating Committee to consider what role it might take in the selection of 'AVPs'. An initial paper was drafted by the Chair and circulated for comment. A range of options exist and the Committee is supportive of all – in that it sees no difficulties with any of the courses of action considered. Kim Warren (as President 2013) has indicated that he may wish the Committee to consider this matter further and make formal recommendations to Summer PC 2013. The Chair will be pleased to co-ordinate this.

Finally, I would like to record my gratitude to all of my colleagues on the Committee for their informed and constructive contributions to the Committee's business.

*David C Lane  
Ex officio Chair, Nominating Committee  
January 2013, London*

## **Appendix 1: Criteria for PC Membership**

There are few hard rules for PC membership – other than an individual's being a member in good standing. So other than that hard requirement, what Nominating Committee might usefully employ are best seen as desiderata.

### **0. Requirement for Serving on Policy Council: To be eligible for PC membership, the individual must be a Society member in good standing**

The rationale is simple: it makes no sense to ask somebody who is not even a SDS member to be on the ruling body of SDS. The Home Office is able to provide data regarding membership. Note that at the time of the Committee's deliberation in year N we would not expect everyone to have renewed yet for year N+1. However, the Committee did encounter an example of a NO for year N and a YES for year N+1. The early data for year N+1 therefore may be useful to have.

### **1. Desideratum 1: Conference attendance of at least 2 out of last 4 (or 5) conferences.**

Beyond this minimum, the person would be out of touch with the conference realities and discussions.

### **2. Desideratum 2: Active and voluntary contribution to the field or the Society. Arguably the most important criterion of all might well be that a person has DONE SOMETHING to advance the field of SD and/or the Society.**

Has he/she contributed to the standing of the field? Has he/she been acknowledged by the SDS via an award for a contribution? Has he/she helped to organise an SD conference? Has he/she organised an SD Winter Camp, or a European Workshop? Has he/she played a significant role in a chapter or SIG? Has he/she helped with the *System Dynamics Review*? Has he/she helped to prepare a proposal to host the annual conference? Has he/she contributed to the program of a conference by being a Thread Chair, or perhaps just a regular reviewer? Has he/she worked to start/grow an SD program at a university, high school or middle school? Has he/she served as an AVP? Has he/she helped with the Ph.D. Colloquium? Has he/she successfully led an effort to bring SD into a corporation or government entity? Etc.

A degree of latitude is needed in applying this one but the sense of it is clear: it is very important that we identify people who will DO something other than merely show-up (physically or virtually) at six meetings during their tenure on the PC. A good predictor that a person will do something in the future is that he/she has voluntarily done something in the past.

### **3. Recommendation Regarding Partial Term Candidates: all individuals who have successfully served on PC for less than a full term should be automatically considered as very strong candidates for a subsequent full term**

In operational terms this could mean their automatic placement on the 'long list' discussed by the Nominating Committee.