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ICANN Transcription

GNSO Standing Selection Committee

Wednesday, 18 November 2020 at 18:00 UTC

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TERRI AGNEW: Good morning, good afternoon, and good evening. And welcome to the GNSO Standing Selection Committee Call taking place on Wednesday, the 18th of November, 2020. In the interest of time, there will be no roll call. Attendance will be taken by the Zoom room. If you're only on the audio bridge, could you please identify yourselves now?

Hearing no one, I would like to remind all to please state your name before speaking for transcription and recording purposes and to please keep your phones and microphones on mute when not speaking to avoid any background noise.

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As a reminder, those who take part in ICANN multistakeholder process are to comply with the expected standards of behavior. With this, I'll turn it back over to Carlton Samuels. Please begin.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening, everyone. Welcome to this SSC meeting. On the board in front of you is the agenda. I want to review it later on, but before I start, can I ask if there is any SOIs for updating? Could you please state it here and now?

Hearing no [inaudible] updating, we'll move to the agenda. As you see, there are five items on the agenda. We've just concluded the first one almost. We have the brief review of the SSC working methods, then the SSC leadership selection for the 2020-21 term. That will be handled by staff. Introduction to the assignment that we are currently meeting about. That is about the GNSO registry liaison to the CSC. There is also going to be some intervention from staff there and then we have AOB, any other business. Is this agenda adopted by members?

I see Jothan just giving us an FYI that he is continuing his role as the Registry Special Interest Group Liaison. We are going to welcome some new members to the SSC. There's Craig, Osvaldo, Peter, and Tatiana is continuing as an ex officio member serving on behalf of Council leadership. This is where I am going to ask staff to go over, briefly, the SSC working methods for members so we are all on board with them. Passing over now to Emily. Emily?

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EMILY BARABAS:	Thanks, Carlton. Hi, everyone. Welcome to those who are new and those who are returning this year. So, because some of you are new and it's been a little bit of time since we have last done a selection process, we thought it might be good to just take a few minutes today and run through just a couple of key points from the SSC's work. You'll remember in the agenda that there were a few documents, the SSC charter and the standard working process that are really important for everyone to review just so you understand how the SSC works, how it doesn't work, what it's tasked to do, and so forth.

Just a couple of things I wanted to highlight before we go forward. Transparency of deliberations, this is something that comes up a lot. So, as a reminder, by default, the deliberations of the SSC are recorded, are published, notes are taken and put on the Wiki, and materials are shared publicly on the Wiki as well regarding the process so that it's sort of a transparency by default principle. So just keep that in mind as you deliberate, that those records are accessible to anyone who's interested in them.

There are going to be cases, specific processes, where certain materials you'll want to keep private for one reason or another. And that is possible. It's just that there needs to be a justification for doing so. So, for example, in this process, we e-mailed all of you to let you know that there is some pretty specific information that's requested as part of the process, including a resume, CV, or bio, which often includes personal information and suggested that that be kept on a separate private Wiki, and it seemed like there was general agreement that that was acceptable. So that's an example of where that doesn't happen.

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A second key point to just remind everyone of that if you're going to be a candidate yourself for a process or have some sort of connection that you feel like makes you conflicted for a selection process, we ask that you notify the SSC and work with your SG or C to have a temporary replacement. So, I'm not sure if that applies for anyone for this particular process coming up but please let us know if it does.

I just also wanted to mention that almost all of the slots are filled on the SSC at this point, but there is still one open NCSG slot that they haven't identified someone for yet. So, we're almost fully put together as a slate.

And the last thing I wanted to say is that there's a sort of standard process. I mentioned the document. We generally follow that and so when we talk about the proposed process for this upcoming selection, we'll be drawing on that. So I think those are the main things we wanted to cover. If there are any questions, we can talk about them now or we can also cover them over e-mail at any time. So, please feel free to ask. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. Does any member have a question they want to ask?

I'm not seeing any hands.

EMILY BARABAS: Oh, Carlton. I'm sorry. I had one more thing. And I am not able to raise my hand, I believe. Oh, I'm not a co-host. I can raise my hand and will do so in the future.

I also just wanted to mention that this SSC operates by full consensus which means that what you're trying to do here is come to full consensus on a particular recommendation in any process, which of course, is a challenge at times but that is the objective and where you want to head. So, just keep that in mind as you go through it. And that's it, I believe, for these agenda items. I'll hand it back to you, Carlton. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. I see Craig asked in the chat if the direction for the SSC will come by e-mail from staff, from Emily. There are already some links to the documents referred by Emily and I'm sure it would not be, she would not be bothered by sending them by e-mail as well. So, the documents referred, there are links to them from the agenda and we can always access it by that route.

Any other question? I want to just correct a small ID matter. I earlier said that Jothan Frakes was representing the registry. He is actually the representative from the Registrar SG, just for the record to make sure that that's understood.

Are there any questions that we want to ask at this stage? Okay. So, just to go to item number three, and it's about SSC leadership selection for the 2020-2021 term. I am going to ask staff, Emily again, to just give the background for this. I am involved here so I

think it's most appropriate for staff to give you the background. Emily, could you take over please?

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Carlton. So, each year, the SSC selects a leadership team, typically a co-chair—I'm sorry—a Chair and a Vice-Chair for the coming year and those individuals can be reconfirmed if they stay on. Our previous Chair termed out and is no longer on the SSC. So, the Chair seat is vacant.

Carlton, who is chairing this call, was the Vice-Chair our previous year and is staying on in the coming year as well. So, for this agenda item, the SSC needs to select a Chair and a Vice-Chair and we're looking for volunteers to step forward and do that. So, of course, if there are any questions…

The Chair role is not typically a very heavy lift. It depends how many assignments the SSC has in a year, but they will work with staff on the agendas, and of course, lead the calls as well and moderate e-mail discussion if there is any, although that's usually pretty light. So, the time commitment is not enormous, and of course, you'll be supported by Julie and I on the staff side to work through any process stuff if you're not familiar with it. So, we are looking for volunteers, and please, we'll open up the discussion. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. And just for the record, I am putting my hat in the ring to the Chair position. This is not to say nobody else can.

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I'm just letting it be known that I am volunteering to be in the Chair position for this year.

As Emily pointed out, it is open season. Any member may put forward themselves for the Chair or the Vice-Chair and it will be considered by the committee. I would imagine that you would do so by e-mail, and then, at some point, we will have the selection known by all the members who would have participated in the selection. Is there any other issue that anyone wants to bring up here at this point?

I see that Jothan has seconded my self-nomination. Thank you, sir. Moving on… And Marie has second, thirded, she says, the nomination.

Moving on to the meat of this matter here, the introduction of the assignment. As you know, we have a little business before us to the selection for the Non-Registry Liaison to the Customer Standing Committee. I am going to ask staff to take us back to the EOI, Expression of Interest, so that all members can be familiar with the background for this. I am again turning to staff. Of course, staff is very important to our lives here because they do have a lot to provide us in this case.

Emily, could you please take over?

EMILY BARABAS: Hey, Carlton. Thank you. I'm actually just going to take one step back and add one item to the previous agenda item, which is just in case anyone wasn't able to weigh in on the call or isn't able to join us today. We'll just put your name forward on the list in case

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anyone wants to weigh in further and we'll probably then still be looking for a Vice-Chair. So, no one needs to speak now, but in response to that e-mail, if you are willing to step forward, that would certainly be helpful for Carlton to have a back-up in case he is out or needs assistance. So, think about if you're willing to do so and respond on list. Thanks.

So, moving ahead to the upcoming assignment, we have a special guest today, James Gannon, who is currently serving as the GNSO—well, was serving until ICANN 69 as the GNSO Non-Registry Liaison to the Customer Standing Committee. And as he's been serving in that role and has experience with both the CSC and also the role of liaison itself, I think he's probably best positioned to speak a little bit to the content of the role and also what might be desirable in a candidate. Hopefully, you've all had a chance to read the Expression of Interest that the GNSO Council put out. The document is pretty standard. It's based on a sort of standard application form that is put out for both liaisons and members of the CSC whenever there's openings at the end of each cycle, so it's a pretty standardized EOI process. Hopefully, if there are questions, people can put those forward.

But I think what I'll do is turn it over to James who can maybe speak a little bit to the role and desirable candidate traits and then we can kick off some discussion from there about process and next steps. So, James, if you're ready, I'll turn it over to you. Thanks.

JAMES GANNON:	Thanks, Emily. Yep, I'm happy to bring the SSC through some of my experiences. First off, a disclaimer, which I now have to give at every ICANN meeting I think, I am now a PTI Director, but just speaking here on behalf of myself.

So yeah, the Non-Registry Liaison to the CSC, it's a strange role, I will say. So, what the CSC does is the CSC has the oversight function over the IANA operations and over PTI. So, really, what the committee does is, on a monthly basis, the group meets with PTI leadership and PTI staff where it receives, essentially, a report of SLAs, of which there are hundreds, that catalog and identify PTI's performance over the previous month. And the role of the CSC is really to manage and oversee that operational excellence piece of PTI.

Now, the structure of the CSC is composed of four members and a number of liaisons. However, I will say even though that is a formal structure, that the members and the liaisons are very much on equal footing, and certainly, in my time there, it was, in essence, no different on whether you were a member or a liaison. And really, the role of the GNSO Liaison to the CSC is to represent the non-registry groups. So the Registry Stakeholder Group has two members on this committee already. So, this position is very much about everybody else.

So, the first kind of candidate trait that I'm going to call out is somebody who is able to work across the various, let's call them silos within the GNSO. This person needs to really be able to talk to the NCSG, talk to the IPC, the BC, the registrars. It really needs to be somebody who has a good network within the GNSO.

And that really leads into the second big kind of watchout that I'll give the SSC. This is not a junior role. This is not a role for somebody who is going into their first leadership position at ICANN. This really needs somebody who understands the minutiae of the role and understands the bylaws obligation that the CSC does. The CSC, in essence, is replacing the oversight that NTIA used to have over the IANA functions. So, this is a very senior, important role. I can toot my own horn a little bit. I've gone from this role to being on the PTI Board. So, kind of take that as a reflection of the importance of this role and the level of experience that I would hope you'll be able to find in the candidates that you want to place into this.

And then, the last kind of major point that I want to make is that this is not an exciting committee. This is not a flashy committee. It's a committee that gets its head down, gets the work done. And again, look for that kind of very process-focused. It's not a Rockstar role. It's a process-focused, experienced person from inside the ICANN community who is looking to then apply those skills to the CSC. And yeah, it's something that somebody could grow in, but it's, I would caution against taking a more junior candidate in it just based on my own experience of over four years on the committee.

That's kind of my high-level overview. I'm happy to answer questions as well. That's probably valuable to the SSC, and help guide you on your own thoughts as well as you start to look at candidates.

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CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, James. Thank you for that background. Members, do you have any questions that we could direct to James on this position? I'm not seeing any hands.

Okay, so not seeing any hands, thank you again, James, for that. You will note that the Expression of Interest and other materials is on the workspace. You just need to go to the Wiki and get that. If you have any questions about any of the documents that are… I see a hand from Taiwo. Taiwo, you can speak.

TAIWO PETER AKINREMI: Yeah. Thank you so much. I just wanted to ask James, does the role require technical skills that one needs to bear in mind? Okay, because you've actually give a background of what the role entails. Does it require technical? Simply because you made mention that we should focus on them, like senior peoples that have experience rather than a first timer. So just, I want you to clarify that. Okay?

JAMES GANNON: Yeah. No, a good question. I would say some, but not very much. The person needs to have a basic understanding of how the root zone operates, but it's very much more a policy role. It's more of a management style of committee. So, you know, the person needs to understand the basic functioning of the RZMS and how Verisign interacts with PTI. But they don't need to understand the technical details of those interactions, just enough to be able to read the SLAs and understand them at a high level.

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CARLTON SAMUELS:	Thank you, Taiwo. Thank you, James. Jothan, you are next up. I see your hand up, sir.
JOTHAN FRAKES:	Yeah, thank you. And hopefully folks can hear me. So James, thanks for joining us today. I really appreciate your service in this role. Thank you for that. And I look forward to you at PTI.
	And as part of what we're doing, we're tasked with helping select people for this role as they come in. And I wonder if there were some attributes that we should be looking for in candidates that would be helpful towards that ambition, but also, if you could describe what—I'm trying to think of the right way to articulate this—what specifically were helpful traits of your colleagues as you worked on the CSC when you were taken to task or had things that you had to do? What were some very, very helpful attributes?
JAMES GANNON:	Yeah. Again, excellent question. I'll break it up into two parts. The biggest advantage… Or sorry, let me phrase it differently. The members of the CSC who are the most effective are those who were either present during the IANA transition or have a deep knowledge of what happened during the IANA transition. So, I would say if you're looking for one standout attribute, it would be that, somebody who is very familiar with what happened during those times. And as a second key attribute, has a really good understanding of PTI and the IANA functions themselves. So, if

you could find somebody with one or two of those traits, I think you'll be on to a very good track, if that makes sense.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, James, for that answer. That was an excellent question, by the way, Jothan. I went through my head of what he saw in the people around him he was working with.

Taiwo, I see your hand up, sir. You have other questions?

TAIWO PETER AKINREMI: Yes, thank you so much. So, just trying to look at the answer that you gave at the previous time, just trying because you said it's basically more like a management role. So, what if we have a candidate that have management role in the various capacities that are stepping forward, so does that suffice in this kind of exercise that we are looking at?

JAMES GANNON: So, I would say that if they come from a management background, but have that knowledge of the bylaws and PTI and IANA operations, then you'll be fine. They will probably pick up the technical pieces as they go along. I believe it's still a three-year term, so there will be time for them to onboard and get used to running within the committee because it's not a one-year term where they're going to be having to rotate more often.

So, I think that the key thing is some basic high-level technical understanding is useful, but it's more about having that PTI,

bylaws, IANA transition knowledge is your key indicator for candidates, in my opinion.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, James. And just to update, if you look at the screen, you will see a skills and experience area there that, as James says, is just distilled. It's a good distillation, I think, of what is there. Jothan, you're up next, sir.

JOTHAN FRAKES: So James, I think, picked up very, I think, astutely that I was looking for maybe some qualifications or attributes that were in the margins of this that weren't necessarily stated pointedly on the skills and experience. I wanted to make a clarification. I think I heard in what Taiwo said very wisely was should we be looking, should we be reviewing the candidates in light of what other responsibilities or time dedication or focus ability that they would have on this role? I read that or understood that to be what Taiwo was asking and I think it's a very important thing that, in our community, we do definitely see people who have many hats they wear. James, would you suggest that it's best to, we would be better served, the community would be better served by someone who, perhaps, is doing this as a sole role or have other light responsibilities elsewhere given the focus or the heads-down type of work that would be going on inside of the CSC?

JAMES GANNON: Again, I'll give an answer in two parts. I like doing that. And the first part is once you're settled into the CSC, the workload is not

very high. So, I would say the onboarding is pretty heavy. There's a lot of history. There's a lot of process. There's a lot of onboarding help provided by staff in particular that will take up a lot of time at the start. But after that, I would say it's two to four hours a month and commitment. So, I wouldn't worry about it being too much of an overload for an existing leadership role person if they wanted to take it on in addition.

And then, the second part of my answer as well is I just want to call out something that is potentially a little bit different from many of the other Expressions of Interest the SSC deals with. The candidate criteria here that we see on the screen are actually directly from the bylaws. So, these are much more concrete than we're usually used to dealing with and I've got around some of them in my direct experience and knowledge of the IANA function is a good example. So like, I'm not an IANA customer. I never have been. I don't even work in the DNS industry at all. But due to other factors, which is my involvement in the IANA transition, I met that criteria. So just, again, when you're kind of gap assessing candidates against the criteria, take them quite seriously because these are actually bylaws mandated criteria, in this case, which again, is maybe slightly different to the norm.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, James. That's an excellent point to bring out now. Just to remind members that the first timeline is the 23rd of November where we should receive the EOIs of persons who are interested and then we make the discussion, come back to discussion and selection bye the 6th of December, just to make note of that.

Are there any other comments on this at this point?

I see a hand. James?

JAMES GANNON: If there's not, then I'll make one final comment and this is more my own personal guidance to the SSC. This is not a blocking role for the CSC. So, the absence of somebody in this role for a short period of time is not an issue from a process point of view. So, my suggestion to the CSC is take your time with this one. If you need to extend your EOI period to get a good candidate, I would err on the side of doing that and really take the time to find the right person for the role because it is a very important role from an overall governance perspective and I would err on the side of taking your time and finding the right person rather than rushing it through, just my last two cents.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Yes, sir, advice received. I would note, again, that the materials for application and [side] materials are available on the Wiki. You can get better information. Of course, staff is always in standby to assist us in understanding more of what is required here.

There's one other thing I would ask you to do. James just made a point that we should take our time in making the selections, so we get the right fit or a good fit for the role. I don't know how far out we can do any outreach, whether or not we are required to do some outreach to [likely] candidates. But this is an opportunity for us to probably make some kind of an outreach to persons that we think might be good candidates for the role. I see a hand up from

Jothan again. I guess you want to clarify the term period. That was asked by, I can't remember. Somebody asked about the term period. We can have some clarification here. Jothan, you're up, sir.

JOTHAN FRAKES: Well, that's exactly it. And I was articulating… I was articulating this in the chat. I don't know that it necessarily needs more of our time invested in it, but as I understand it, this would be somebody serving out the remainder of the term and then, James, I think you said in the chat that then someone can serve two, three-year terms. Is that correct? So, we would be placing someone, initially, to fill the role that you would be leaving to take on your important role in the PTI but then we are also… Is that person then subsequently, presumably renewing for a second term? And what are term limits within the CSC? So, I have two questions. You can divide those up as you like, James.

JAMES GANNON: Thanks. So yeah, I'm a process nerd. So, the person would serve out my remaining 18 months or whatever it is until, essentially, the end of 2021. And they would then additionally be eligible for two times three-year terms. I'm not specifically sure. My understanding is they could serve for, then, the total of seven years basically. But the standard term is three years. I know when I came up for renewal 18 months ago, the assumption was that the person in the role would be renewing at that point. So, I would view it as a long-term appointment.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Okay. Thank you, James. That's good [inaudible] here. So again, it goes into deliberations about the persons that you would wish to select. But they might be [minded that] it's a long-term appointment and so there's a lot of string to navigate here as we move forward.

Are there any other questions here? I see a hand up from Craig. Craig?

CRAIG SCHWARTZ: Hi, Carlton. Can you hear me okay?

CARLTON SAMUELS: Yes, sir. I am hearing you very well. Thanks.

CRAIG SCHWARTZ: So, another process question, and that is how is the opportunity made available to the ICANN community and beyond? That is, how do we solicit or how are EOIs solicited for the role?

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you for that, Craig. That's a good question. I'm going to defer to staff here to guide us through here. Emily, you are on.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Carlton. So, as was the case in the selection process that resulted in James coming into the role, the primary way that the

Expression of Interest was distributed was through the stakeholder groups and constituencies. And the reason for that was because anyone who is applying for the role needs to be a member of a stakeholder group or constituency other than the registries in order to be eligible for the role. So, the best way to reach members is through those SGs and Cs. Although, an announcement has also been posted on the GNSO website for transparency purposes or in case anyone misses their e-mail.

But noting that this is a very niche role and only people sort of within the SG and C universe are eligible to apply. The EOI has been pretty targeted, but as you note, there have not been any candidates who have put forward EOIs yet. So, it may be a limited pool of people who do apply. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. Craig is up again and then James. Can we go to Craig and then James?

[inaudible] that is fine. So, we'll next go to James. James, you're up.

JAMES GANNON: Thanks, Carlton. I want to correct my own record. I was incorrect. It's a two-year term and so you can serve a maximum of two two-year terms, and the charter does not state whether a partial term counts as a full two-year slot or not. So yes, it would be a maximum of five years or not. But I'm sure the CSC could elaborate on that if asked.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, James. Jothan asked a really needling question. He wanted to know what would happen if we don't have any Expressions of Interest? What is the next thing? I'm going to seek guidance from staff here on this first and then maybe we can get something. Thank you, Emily. You're on.

EMILY BARABAS: Hi, Carlton. So if we do not receive any candidates for this role, it's likely to be a conversation between the SSC and the GNSO Council—in particular, Council leadership—to determine next steps. So, it was Council leadership that launched the EOI. And as always, the Council and Council leadership in particular is sort of an important part of the SSC's role and this sort of is at the juncture between what the SSC needs to do and the sort of, Council's more management role. So, if we don't receive any qualified candidates, that's, likely the next step is to circle back with Council.

I did want to mention we will have an ex officio member of the SSC. It'll be Tatiana Tropina from the Council leadership. There is always a member of the Council leadership on the SSC who doesn't participate in consensus calls, and that person sort of provides the bridge. There was a bit of an administrative glitch and Tatiana didn't get the invite, wasn't able to join us today, but she will be caught up and joining us on future calls, so she can also provide that sort of link when there are discussions that need to happen between the SSC and Council leadership. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. I was about to reintroduce the fact that Tatiana is liaison to the leadership and maybe she would be able to assist us, but thank you so much for outlining that and giving an explanation.

Just before I go to James, there is a conversation in the chat that was asking what would we do—this is Taiwo—if, do we give preference to a stakeholder group, James's stakeholder group, given that it is an incomplete term? I will defer the answer until we get to James. James, you're up.

JAMES GANNON: Thanks, Carlton. So, not to put down my own stakeholder group here, but this is not a stakeholder group-related appointment and so, this is an individual appointment that represents everybody except the Registry Stakeholder Group. It's a particular construction in the bylaws that the role sits like that, so it's very important, from my perspective, that that differentiation is respected in the process. That's something that is mandated in the bylaws.

And then to Jothan's question, the specific bylaw's wording on the liaisons to the CSC is that each of the following organizations may also appoint [one] liaison. So, yeah, he is correct in what I said earlier. This is not a blocking role. It does not stop the CSC from functioning, so if this takes more time than expected and you need to go through a couple of rounds of asking people for EOIs, then you can do that.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, James. I wanted to mention also that the outreach was intended to go beyond the stakeholder groups that was represented here, so my own feeling was that it was not specific to a stakeholder group.

I note in the chat that Taiwo has agreed that he got the answer that he was… He was satisfied with the answer from James on that matter.

So, is there anything else that we could talk about here? I do think we've exhausted this topic. I see Emily up. Emily?

EMILY BARABAS: Thank you, Carlton. So, if the conversation with James has concluded and there are no further questions from him, perhaps, we can let him drop and just talk a little bit about next steps and process for the selection process. Does that sound good to everyone? Unless there is anything else people would like to ask James. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Yes. Thank you, Emily. Yes. So, if there are no hands—I see no hands—going once, going twice. No more questions for James. While James is still with us just in case you [inaudible].

JAMES GANNON: So, I will just say thank you for inviting me. I hope it was valuable and useful and I wish you the best of luck with finding a great

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candidate for the CSC. And hopefully, I look forward to working with them in the other direction from the PTI Board.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, sir. Thank you for coming on and helping us through this. I really do appreciate it on behalf of the members. Thank you.

We are going to go to the next steps. I am going to… It's on the screen, but I am just going to ask Emily to just kind of go over them with us, voice them so that we all get a sense of what is, what's here, what's before us.

Emily, would you help us out here, please?

EMILY BARABAS: Hi, Carlton. Happy to do so. So, this is a proposed timeline assuming that we do in fact get candidates to evaluate by the deadline. So, of course, this can be adjusted as necessary but gives us a sense of what we can do if that's the case.

So, the anticipated deadline for Expressions of Interest is this coming Monday. And typically, what happens for the selection processes is that the individual members will evaluate the candidates and fill out a poll to help them organize their thoughts and sort of start the analysis of the application process after which the group will meet and discuss the results of the poll and any additional perspectives and sort of have an open discussion and work towards reaching full consensus. And depending on the process and the candidates, that can take one, two meetings. Usually it doesn't take more than two.

So, I'm seeing in the chat, Craig is saying with the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, this looks tight if there are candidates. Indeed, it is a bit tight. The hope is to get a candidate for the GNSO Council meeting in December.

So, here's what we're sort of proposing, and of course, as I said, this is for discussion. We can open up the poll on Tuesday next week, so the day after the EOIs come in. We have the poll that was used previously and polls that have been used for previous selection processes. So, what we can do is circulate that draft poll without any names in it, just to see the format. And you can all get familiar with that and see if it suits your needs. We can circulate that after the call, so you'll be able to do that this week.

We then plug in the candidates, open up the poll on November 24th and have a call scheduled for the week of November 30th, so that's the following week. And folks will have approximately a week to fill out the poll. So, for those celebrating Thanksgiving in the U.S., you'll have Tuesday through potentially Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the next week, so, until before the, shortly before the meeting itself to fill out that poll. So, hopefully that's enough time to do so. It's not a very extensive poll. So, we would schedule a call on the week of November 30th.

December 7th is the motion deadline for the December Council meeting, but you can put in a placeholder motion which basically indicates that you will be making a recommendation but don't have a name yet, and that puts it on the agenda. And December 15th is sort of the target date for actually having a candidate selected. So, you could meet the week of December 7th, potentially even have another meeting after that. So, and then

December 17th is the GNSO Council meeting. So, I see a hand from Jothan. Please.

JOTHAN FRAKES: Yes. Right. So, I put this into the chat, but clearly, we're days away from kind of the closed window on when we would receive Expressions of Interest. I see the word "proposed" very prominently as the first word on this slide. I wonder, given that the Standing Selection Committee has just undergone a rotation and I see other groups are asking for extensions, given that we have the holiday, would it be prudent? What is the consequence or change if this shifted to a subsequent GNSO Council meeting? And is that something that the SSC would propose or would that be something that the GNSO Council would direct? A two-part question to carry the spirit of James Gannon.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks for the question. So, like I said, this is a timeline proposed by staff. If you feel like it is, if there's agreement in the group that this is not possible, we can propose an alternate schedule that would be for the January Council meeting. It means the role is vacant for another month. Obviously, a longer vacancy is less desirable than a shorter vacancy, so if it's possible to find someone who's qualified and appropriate earlier, that's a good thing. But if you all agree that this infeasible, you can put together a longer timeline and bring that back to Council and make sure that it's okay with them.

I will note that there are likely to be more SSC assignments coming up quite soon, so we need to think about… I know that it's likely that an assignment for the fellowship program mentorship position is coming up, so there is going to be more coming with relatively short timelines than some of those are externally… The timeline is sort of externally mandated.

But like I said, it's up for discussion and if you really feel that this is infeasible, then we can draft an alternate timeline for the Council to approve. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. I am going back to Jothan's comment. I think that there is a real possibility. I would recommend that maybe we play it by ear. I know that our work is very much confined by the deadlines for Council and giving Council recommendations. Of course, the number of SOIs we get is going to influence how quickly we can get through them or even if we have anything to do for meeting the December Council meeting deadlines.

I am saying that maybe we can accept that there could be delays, but we set the pivot point further down the road from here, say, depending on how many SOIs we get or whether we get any at all. I am suggesting that this is something that we need to keep in mind, but maybe we should exercise an intervention further down the line.

Members feel that way? How do you feel?

JOTHAN FRAKES: I want to try to rephrase that as an exercise to ensure I understood you correctly. I think I heard you say that the suggestion would be, a Path A would be to follow the proposed schedule should we have EOIs and should we not have EOIs, that we would have some path that gives us 30 more days or some extension to obtain EOIs to continue the process shifted by whatever calendar dates that those would come in. Is that… Did I hear you correctly?

CARLTON SAMUELS: Yes, sir. That's exactly what I am suggesting.

JOTHAN FRAKES: Then I support that. I think that's a very wise course. So, a question, perhaps, to Emily, looking at the proposed timeline, would our, I guess, what we would bring to the GNSO Council meeting, what we would prepare or bring to the GNSO Council meeting would simply be a request for continuance of some form.

EMILY BARABAS: So, I think it's not actually quite as formal as that. This timeline has not been officially communicated to Council in a meeting or anything like that. This is sort of for our discussion about what we think is feasible so that we can set expectations with Council from the SSC side because this is not an assignment that has a hard and fast deadline like some might.

So yeah, I think it's fine to wait until Tuesday of next week and see what's come in and what the SSC, or yeah, what you all feel like is

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feasible. So for example, if you got 50 EOIs on Monday and you said, "There's no way we can evaluate 50 EOIs in this timeframe. We need more time." Or, if you got none and that triggers the need for a conversation with Council leadership about next steps in terms of extending the EOI or whatever else. In either case, we can revise the timeline and bring that back to Council leadership just to set expectations about what seems feasible.

So, it's a bit more fluid than that. It's not as though you need to present this during a Council meeting as the timeline that's set in stone or anything like that. It's to the extent that there are, especially circumstances outside of your control, there's flexibility, in this case, to make sure that the right candidate comes into play. Thanks.

JOTHAN FRAKES: One more question. And this will be the last question. I'll follow that. So, do we need to make a motion on that to kind of formalize it, to say that it was suggested that we see what we have by next Tuesday and either extend the timeline or continue down our path with the EOIs? What would I be able to report back, for example, to my stakeholder group about the process? Thank you.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Jothan. So, again, in terms of formal motion or something like that, there's not really anything that's necessary to do. I think we can touch base on the e-mail list after the EOI deadline has passed. That can just be a staff follow-up saying, "Here's the results of what we've gotten so far. Is this feasible to all of you?"

And if you all respond and say, "We agree that this is not feasible," or, "A different path needs to be taken," then that's all that needs to happen and that will continue as a conversation, potentially just on the mailing list if a meeting is not needed, especially given the Thanksgiving holiday in the U.S. and folks maybe not being available.

So, yeah, there's no formal motion or anything like that that would be necessary. I hope that clarifies the point. Thanks.

CARLTON SAMUELS: Thank you, Emily. Jothan, are you… I see you gave a tick that you're happy with that. Okay. So, this is the position, I think. We will wait to see what gets thrown over the fence. We will then decide and communicate on the e-mail list to see what we have a position, a matter, consensus position, so to speak. And then based on that, we will know how we proceed. If that is fair to everybody, if anybody has any objections to this, you can always indicate on the list here or by speaking up.

And we're almost at the top of the hour. We are two minutes from the hour. Is there any other question on the timeline if you're here that we can deal with in short order?

Okay, seeing no response, hearing nothing from anyone, I think we are now at number five, item number five, AOB. Is there any other business?

Yes, I see Emily. Emily, go ahead.

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Carlton. I just had one very brief item. This is an administrative item. If everyone can check and see if they have access to the private Wiki of the SSC. If you're having trouble logging in to this, you can e-mail the SO/AC support team and ask for assistance, but we'll be needing that down the road. So, if everyone can just check and make sure that it's all set, that would be great. And thanks, Marie, for already doing that. We'll put it in the notes as well but I just wanted to mention why we're asking you to do that. Thanks so much.

CARLTON SAMUELS: I checked that web access, so that's a good thing. And I see Osvaldo, Craig, Sophie, Marie all reporting access so that's a good thing. Any other business? Last call.

Seeing no hands raised and no mention, can I just say thanks to everyone for showing up for this meeting? Thanks for the discussion. Thank you, staff, for being so helpful in getting things done here. I will see you all on the list. This meeting is adjourned.

MODERATOR: Thank you, everyone.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]