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ICANN Transcription
GNSO Standing Selection Committee
Wednesday, 18 December 2019 at 13:00 UTC
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NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Good morning, good afternoon, good evening everybody. This is the GNSO Standing Selection Committee call on Wednesday, 18th of December 2019. On the call today, we have Rafik Dammak, Jothan Frakes, Ayden Férdeline, Julf Helsingius, and Sam Lanfranco. We received no apologies for today's call. And from staff, we have Emily Barabas, Steve Chan, and myself, Nathalie Peregrine.

I'd like to remind you all to please remember to state your names before speaking for recording purposes. I'd like to note for the record that Philippe Fouquart has just joined the call [equally]. Thank you ever so much, everyone, and over to Rafik.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Thanks, Nathalie, and thanks, everyone for attending the first call of the Standing Selection Committee. We have several new members for this year. You can see the agenda. We have some administrative tasks, and also, I think the first selections task that was asked by the GSNO Council. So, first, I'm checking if you

have any issues with—or any amendment that you would like on the agenda. Otherwise, we will start with the first agenda item.

Okay. So, I think we started already with welcome. For agenda review, I quickly explained it. We will have to discuss about the selection of the Chair and the Vice Chair. So, now I'm temporarily acting as the Chair, just to get this call started. Hopefully, we can appoint new leadership soon. Also asking if there is any updates to your SOI. Please keep it up-to-date. Okay. I see that, Julf, you're in the queue. Please go ahead.

JULF HELSINGIUS: Just a small update to my SOI. I just wanted to let people know that I'm now on the board of the Finnish ISOC chapter as well.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay. Thanks, Julf. I expect that it's reflected in your GSNO SOI form. So, if there is no further comment or intervention, we can go to the second agenda item. That's related to the selection of the Chair and Vice Chair—so, the new leadership for this year. I will ask here Emily to explain the usual process for the selection that was conducted previously. We are not aiming to do the selection today, but just to kick off the process. Emily?

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Rafik. This is Emily from staff. Welcome, everyone to the first SSC Meeting of this term. We have quite a few new members. That includes a replacement for our former Chair of the SSC, which was Susan Kawaguchi. So, what we're looking for is a

volunteer to serve in the Chair role, as well as ideally one Vice Chair, but possibly two if necessary. That might be too much, but we did have that last year. Susan is indeed irreplaceable, says Marie.

So, I think what we've done in the past is basically just ask for volunteers—and in the past, Susan was the only one who was interested in the Chair role—and just confirmed over the email list. Since not everyone is on this call, we do want to of course follow on the email list and make sure that everyone has a chance to weigh in.

It's not expected to be a very heavy load. The SSC is sort of standing on an as-needed basis, which means that the GNSO Council will call on the SSC to make a selection now and then, often for review teams but for other processes like this as well. The Chair will obviously chair the calls and also do some behind-the-scenes work with staff to prepare for the processes. So, when there is a process going on, there is some work involved, and it requires being available on email and so forth. But throughout the year, it's not expected to be a heavy load.

There is an assignment coming up in the very near future for this group, but there isn't anything else planned on the horizon, so it's not expected that there's going to be quite a lot of selection processes coming up. So, that's just for a little bit of context about time commitment. Welcome, Sam.

I guess maybe we can start it off by just asking here on the call, for those who are here, if there's anyone who's interested or who has questions about the Chair or Vice Chair roles. The Vice

Chairs just support the Chair, and if the Chair's unavailable for a call is able to do that in that person's place. Has anyone given this thought already, or would like to already step forward and say that they're interested? If not, we can bring it to the list and people can respond there. Thanks.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Thanks, Emily. So, just maybe to double check first. Do we have all the SSC members in the call today, or we are missing some?

EMILY BARABAS: We are missing some, Rafik. I also wanted to mention that Erica Varlese is serving her second term. She was serving as Vice Chair last year, so I'm not sure if that's something that she's interested in again this year. I don't believe she's on the call, but we can certainly give her the opportunity to follow up by email as well. Like I said, if no one's ready to speak up right now, we can just put this to the list and have people think about it a little bit. That's fine as well.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay. Thank you, Emily. I guess it will be okay just to send the interest to the list so everyone—to have the chance to see the candidates. But yes, if there is anyone who wants to speak now, I think it's okay—so, to give opportunity to see who want to volunteer for leading this Committee. Okay. I don't see anyone in the queue or any comment related to being candidate. So, I guess the action item, Emily … So, we will follow up in the mailing list with regard to the leadership for the Chair and Vice Chair.

I hope, Carlton, that you can be more [embaric] next time. I miss it—second banana. Okay, so we have Carlton as volunteering for the Vice Chair. Okay, so we will have people interested. Probably everyone needs more time to think carefully about it. Okay. I guess we can follow up in the mailing list, and hopefully we can get this done quickly. Any objection with proceeding with this?

Okay. Seeing none, I guess we can move to the main part of the call here. That's the introduction to the first assignment for this SSC with regard to the nomination from GSNO for mentor to the ICANN Fellowship. We had the call for interest that was published two days ago. But I will leave this part to Emily to explain about the background and also what we have currently. Emily?

EMILY BARABAS: Thanks, Rafik. I'm just noting that Sam Lanfranco had joined us for the first part of the call. He's one of our SSC members. He's also a candidate for this selection process, and so he's just dropped, and Stephanie Perrin is going to be his temporary alternate for the selection process because he has a conflict there. So, just letting everyone know that.

I've put into the chat a link to the wiki page that hopefully you've had a chance to look at. It is a summary of what this assignment is, some background, and also provides information about the expectations for the role, as well as the applications. I'm just scrolling down on this page, to let you know. For those who haven't had a chance to read yet, I'll just give a very brief overview.

So, the ICANN Fellowship Program provides the opportunity for each SO and AC to nominate one mentor to serve for the Fellowship Program, and to mentor a cluster of fellows for three consecutive ICANN meetings. So, for the GNSO … For the second year in a row, the GNSO has tasked the selection process to the SSC, to make an initial selection to recommend to the Council, and then the Council votes on that recommendation. Unfortunately, there's a bit of a tight timeline, and I'll go over timeline in a little bit. But unfortunately, because it took a little bit of time to get the SSC together and complete the expression of interest, we're just getting started now.

So, the expression of interest closed yesterday. We received a total of 11 expressions of interest, so quite a few. As Marie notes, Andrew Mack did submit an application one day late, and so the group will have to decide what they want to do about that. Noting that Andrew Mack was the mentor this year, there's no rule that says you can't serve two consecutive terms. However, it's up to the SSC of course to decide whether they would want to rotate for diversity or select the same person again.

You can find on this page the PDF versions of all of the expressions of interest. A bunch of these just came in yesterday or today, so probably you haven't read them all, but hopefully you can start familiarizing yourselves with those. Are there any questions so far? Otherwise I can talk through a little bit more about the process for the selection. Okay. I don't see any just yet. Actually, let me pull up … One moment. Can you all see the timeline? Hopefully, yes.

So, working backwards from our deadline, January 31st is the deadline for Council to nominate a candidate and put that forward to the Fellowship Program. The Council meeting in January is on the 23rd. The document deadline is January 13th. The SSC has an opportunity to put in a placeholder motion. It's possible to put in a placeholder motion for that Council meeting, which basically means that it's a motion saying that there will be a recommendation, but the name is left blank. And the last possible day for the SSC to actually put a name into that motion is January 20th. So, like I said, we're looking at a tight timeline.

I wanted to just run through the process that was used last year for the similar mentor selection process. You can make a decision collectively about whether you want to follow that same process, use a different process. That's up to you collectively.

What we did last year was to use a poll—like a Survey Monkey poll—to help each of the members individually go through the applications, organize their thoughts a bit, provide feedback, and rank the candidates based on their own assessment, and then held a couple of meetings to discuss those results, to discuss the perspectives of the different members on the candidates, and to make a final decision. I can share a sample of the what the poll could look like, based on what we used last year. Again, that can be modified. It's just a starting point.

A couple of things to keep in mind … The SSC works by full consensus, which means everyone has to agree on a decision before it can be put forward to the Council. That could be a ranking of candidates or it could be putting forward a single candidate, but it needs to be by full consensus.

Another principle, if you've looked at the Charter, that's important to keep in mind is that the principle of diversity and rotation is something that the SSC has taken into account in past decisions which means, for example, if they made a selection for Review Team one year where the representative, for simplicity let's say they put forward one representative who was from North America and was from the Registries Stakeholder Group. Then, they look at that in taking into consideration for future appointments, maybe looking for diversity in terms of representation, in terms of region, and so forth—so, looking to mix things up not only in terms of diversity within a recommendation but also over time.

Jothan asks, "Are we selecting a single candidate or more than one candidate?" Good question, Jothan. I'm sorry if I'm saying your name incorrectly. One candidate is what we're looking to put forward if at all possible—if the group can come to agreement. There's only one slot from the GNSO. You're welcome. So, are there questions about that? Are there initial thoughts about the possible process to use? How can we support you in taking that next step? Thanks.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Thanks, Emily, for the explanation and briefing. Let's see if there is anyone in the queue or any comment. Okay. It seems one point to clarify here, and maybe to reach agreement or not, is related to Andrew Mack submission since it was a late submission. So, the question here is everyone supporting that we keep it for consideration or not? I see that Jothan and Marie are supporting that.

So, checking from other, if there is any concern. Seeing support. I'm not sure if … Your messaging is kind of unclear, but I assume it's yes with some reservation. Understood, and I think we can [acknowledge] that. Seeing no objection, I think we can keep Andrew Mack application for consideration with the other applications that we received.

So, Emily, let's clarify. We'll go usually through the poll, but we are not aiming to go through the application today if I understand correctly. I guess you want just to check if the survey—I mean for the polling—is okay or not. Are we on the same page?

EMILY BARABAS: Hi, Rafik. Thanks. Yeah. I think the idea is that … If you look at this proposed timeline here, the idea would be that everyone would have an opportunity to take a little bit of time to review the applications, individually record their thoughts in the form of this poll over the course of—I know the holidays are coming up, so over the course of a couple of weeks. And then, schedule by Doodle a couple of meetings in the first half of January to go over and discuss people's impressions of the candidates, their knowledge of the candidates, any discussions that they've had with the groups that they represent.

So, if you are able to talk to your SGs and Cs and make sure that you're in line with them, that's great. So, give a couple of opportunities, and of course over the mailing list as well as possible to continue those discussions. But yeah. The idea is not to talk about the candidates today, but just to make sure that everyone is in agreement about the process that we'll use, so that

we can go ahead and move forward with that in coming weeks and have the process nailed down before the holidays. Thanks.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay. Thanks, Emily. I think when we talk about the process, I guess we are already in the agenda item number four. That's coming to an agreement on process for mentor selection. So, let's see if there is any question or concern about what is suggested, and also the timeline. So, everyone is happy with the suggested timeline and process? Okay. Since that's the case …

Emily, just to confirm the action item following this call … So, what you sent in the email, since we know that the holidays are coming soon for several of our team members … So, just to clarify what will be sent and what is expected from SSC member.

EMILY BARABAS: Hi, Rafik. Sorry I was just responding to Phillipe on the chat. So, yeah. I think if everyone is comfortable with the process from the staff side, what we'll do is follow up with the poll and the deadline—give everyone an opportunity to go back—of course, again, with the links to all of the applications and the background information—give everyone a chance over the holiday break—I'm sorry—to take a little bit of time and go through all of the materials, organize their thoughts, think through their personal assessment.

And then we'll also circulate Doodles for meetings in the first two weeks of January so we can get those on your calendar and make sure that there's enough time for everyone to have discussion about the results of the poll and also just their perspectives and

their qualitative analysis of the applications. Happy to answer any other questions about that. Thanks.

RAFIK DAMMAK: Okay. Thanks, Emily. Let's see if there is any question or comment. Okay. So, I think we are clear here, or we are in agreement regarding the proposed process. We will follow up in the mailing list. So, there is some homework. With that, I think we are done with agenda item number four, and so the next is just any other business. So, if there is anything to be proposed or any topic that SSC members want to discuss, got the opportunity to do so. Otherwise, we can just adjourn the call earlier.

Okay. I guess the agenda and the process was quite straightforward. Yep. I hope so, that's the case, Marie. It was very efficient, and hopefully, for the next call it will be the new leadership to deal with that. Okay. Thanks, everyone. Maybe for those I'm not going to see for the Council meeting, happy holidays and merry Christmas, and happy new year in advance. Thanks, all, and see you soon. Bye-bye.

NATHALIE PEREGRINE: Thank you all for attending. This concludes this call. You may now disconnect your lines, and have a great rest of your days.

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