IEEE Fellow Committee Report

ITW Porto – May 4ᵗʰ, 2008

Request from IT Society Officers

At the IT officers' meeting last Sunday, there was a brief discussion of the Fellows Committee. We agreed that we would like to ask for you to prepare a report for the next BoG meeting in Porto about the Fellows Committee, how well it is operating, statistics, etc. In particular:

(a) Are we getting enough Fellow nominations? If not, recommendations for improvement.

(b)   Some concern has been voiced that it seems to be harder to become a Fellow via the IT Society than via some other societies. Is there any hard evidence for or against this proposition? If so, is there anything we can do about it?

Reply from Fellow Committee Chair (Dan Costello)

Below is a spreadsheet that gives 10-year statistics regarding IEEE Fellow success rates. The IT society is compared to five other societies (four societies closely related by technical area plus power engineering) and to IEEE overall. Based on these statistics, we can draw a few general conclusions:

- Nominations, as a percentage of membership, are generally higher for the IT society than for the other societies, significantly so in the case of the mega-societies, COM and COMP. Relative to IEEE overall, we are about the same.
- Our success rate exceeds that of other societies and of IEEE overall. The CAS society tends to track us most closely in this regard.
- These trends have been fairly constant over a ten year period.
- Our membership decline has been larger than the other societies and IEEE overall.
- Our nominations have dropped in line with our membership decline. Significantly, this is not true for the other societies.
- In some, but not all, of the other cases, the increase in nominations has been accompanied by a decline in success rate, yielding only a marginal improvement in the number of candidates elected. This suggests that some of these "extra" nominations may have been of a lower quality.

Based on these observations, I would propose the following responses to your questions.

(a) Are we getting enough Fellow nominations? If not, recommendations for improvement.

Probably not. It appears other societies have been making an effort to increase nominations even in the face of falling membership. Perhaps we should do the same, within the constraint of maintaining high standards. This could be done through carefully worded Newsletter or Website announcements, for example. I think it is important, however, that our Fellow Evaluation Committee NOT be involved in this activity, for conflict-of-interest reasons.

(b) Some concern has been voiced that it seems to be harder to become a Fellow via the IT Society than via some other societies. Is there any hard evidence for or against this proposition? If so, is there anything we can do about it?

Based on the information provided, this doesn't seem to be the case. In response to the following specific question that I addressed to IEEE:

- "Also, is there any (exact or approximate) overall ratio of Fellows to total members that gets applied on a society basis? In other words, is there any constraint on the number of Fellows elected to a particular society based on the membership of that society?"

I received the following reply from IEEE:

- "As to your question "is there any (exact or approximate) overall ratio of Fellows to total members that gets applied on a society basis?", there is no such constraint."

Thus, it seems like the relatively small number of IT Society members elected to Fellow in recent years can be attributed more to a declining number of nominations rather than (directly) to falling membership.

Finally, I note that many of our members also have the choice of being nominated by one of our sister societies. We could be "losing" good nominees to other societies with a more proactive approach. I don't know whether this should concern us or not.

IEEE Overall				
Year	Nominations	Elevated	Success Rate	Members
1998/1999	564	239	42.4%	239,760
1999/2000	531	248	46.7%	248,865
2000/2001	525	256	48.8%	253,370
2001/2002	561	259	46.2%	254,220
2002/2003	573	260	45.4%	257,752
2003/2004	675	260	38.5%	239,562
2004/2005	778	268	34.4%	231,313
2005/2006	785	271	34.5%	229,866
2006/2007	765	268	35.0%	224,186
2007/2008	773	295	38.2%	
Totals	6530	2624	40.2%	

Information Theory Society				
Year	Nominations	Elevated	Success Rate	Members
1998/1999	14	6	42.9%	5,952
1999/2000	16	8	50.0%	5,958
2000/2001	11	4	36.4%	5,972
2001/2002	17	8	47.1%	5,644
2002/2003	13	7	53.8%	4,985
2003/2004	14	8	57.1%	4,312
2004/2005	8	3	37.5%	3,918
2005/2006	12	6	50.0%	3,608
2006/2007	12	5	41.7%	3,480
2007/2008	9	4	44.4%	
Totals	**126**	**59**	**46.8%**	

Circuits and Systems Society				
Year	Nominations	Elevated	Success Rate	Members
1998/1999	19	9	47.4%	15,908
1999/2000	32	17	53.1%	15,720
2000/2001	30	18	60.0%	16,264
2001/2002	24	14	58.3%	21,401
2002/2003	28	11	39.3%	20,540
2003/2004	29	13	44.8%	14,150
2004/2005	51	24	47.1%	12,119
2005/2006	31	16	51.6%	11,452
2006/2007	39	12	30.8%	11,040
2007/2008	41	13	31.7%	
Totals	**324**	**147**	**45.4%**	

Communications Society

Year	Nominations	Elevated	Success Rate	Members
1998/1999	49	16	32.7%	57,901
1999/2000	42	19	45.2%	53,886
2000/2001	37	11	29.7%	47,945
2001/2002	47	14	29.8%	49,379
2002/2003	54	17	31.5%	54,563
2003/2004	52	14	26.9%	58,001
2004/2005	71	19	26.8%	46,952
2005/2006	57	20	35.1%	41,968
2006/2007	60	20	33.3%	41,016
2007/2008	71	23	32.4%	
Totals	**540**	**173**	**32.0%**	

Computer Society

Year	Nominations	Elevated	Success Rate	Members
1998/1999	61	26	42.6%	97,242
1999/2000	54	28	51.9%	105,153
2000/2001	56	30	53.6%	99,711
2001/2002	60	32	53.3%	99,343
2002/2003	76	35	46.1%	103,507
2003/2004	82	30	36.6%	102,098
2004/2005	87	22	25.3%	92,846
2005/2006	86	34	39.5%	94,698
2006/2007	103	25	24.3%	86,057
2007/2008	123	32	26.0%	
Totals	**788**	**294**	**37.3%**	

Power Engineering Society

Year	Nominations	Elevated	Success Rate	Members
1998/1999	52	17	32.7%	23,567
1999/2000	44	19	43.2%	23,633
2000/2001	36	12	33.3%	21,792
2001/2002	52	19	36.5%	23,375
2002/2003	50	16	32.0%	23,674
2003/2004	59	17	28.8%	23,033
2004/2005	80	17	21.3%	21,364
2005/2006	38	13	34.2%	21,341
2006/2007	62	20	32.3%	22,445
2007/2008	58	22	37.9%	
Totals	**531**	**172**	**32.4%**	

Signal Processing Society

Year	Nominations	Elevated	Success Rate	Members
1998/1999	39	19	48.7%	18,592
1999/2000	28	10	35.7%	17,563
2000/2001	26	13	50.0%	16,206
2001/2002	32	15	46.9%	19,916
2002/2003	40	16	40.0%	19,835
2003/2004	51	18	35.3%	19,329
2004/2005	63	21	33.3%	15,715
2005/2006	39	13	33.3%	15,404
2006/2007	57	17	29.8%	15,155
2007/2008	54	16	29.6%	
Totals	**429**	**158**	**36.8%**	