

## **Timeline and Events – EIC of Proceedings of the IEEE (PIEEE) Selection**

4/20/18 Submitted 3 Nominee Bios/statements and support letter via Vaishali Damle, PIEEE Managing Editor(ME), to Gordon MacPherson  
Nominees were Tulay Adali, Murat Tekalp, Sankar Basu  
4/25/18 I learned that GianLuca Setti was an additional nominee  
4/30/18 submitted revised letter of support to ME  
4/30/18 emailed GianLuca Setti informing him of revised letter and opposition to his candidacy  
5/1/18 ME sends revised letter to Gordon MacPherson

Nomination and Appointments Committee (NAC) (my notes from June PSPB Meeting)

In the interval 4/20/18 and 5/1/18, the NAC met to discuss candidates for EIC position, selected GianLuca Setti.

In the interval 5/1/18-?(after receiving the revised letter from the EIC, Joel Trussell) the NAC met, reviewed the letter and reaffirmed their original selection.

**PSPB meeting 22 June 2018**

Sheila Hemami, Chair of the NAC, presents GianLuca Setti as the single candidate for the new EIC position. Trussell protests this selection citing Setti's poor performance on the PIEEE editorial board, as noted in his revised letter of 5/1/18. In answer to my question about what qualities of Setti overcame his poor performance on the editorial board, Hemami responded that they had considered input from IEEE staff. A discussion ended with the agreement to address the EIC selection at the PSPB meeting 16 November 2018.

Note: The NAC did not contact the PIEEE ME as required by the Opsmanual. If they had they would have known about my objections to Setti.

### **5.5.2 Committee Consultation with IEEE Staff**

It is expected that the PSPB N&A Committee will consult with the Managing Director, IEEE Publications, as well as the Staff Editors of IEEE SPECTRUM, PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE, IEEE PRESS, and THE INSTITUTE, in regard to member and Editor-in-Chief recommendations.

My comments to the PSPB followed the comments that I had added in my revised letter to the NAC, which I quote here:

“The first three have been very active in responding to requests for reviews of proposals that have been sent to the board for review. They have given well-supported reviews and have contributed even when the topics are not in their main area of research. It is important that we receive evaluations from a wide range of research areas, since the Proceedings is designed to reach a broad audience within the IEEE. Our goal is to encourage and enable cross-disciplinary interchange of ideas. Thus, it is important that board members respond to our calls for evaluations to let us know how they believe proposed issues and papers will be received by our readers. While I do not expect every board member to respond to every solicitation,

I inform them when they join the board that I expect them to evaluate three to five proposals a year. In this regard, the first three candidates have responded well to this request. The number of responses for the first three candidates range from 19 to 25. The self-nominated candidate has only three responses. Indeed, this is the reason that I did not consider him a candidate when his name was suggested. I believe a consistent effort to contribute to the Proceedings is required for the editor-in-chief position.”

The number of responses referred to the number of proposals to which they responded. The current number of emails from the four candidates in my folder on proposal reviews, which includes some multiple responses about the same proposal, is 43, 34, 38, 3.

7/3/18 I emailed the NAC asking for an attached note to be forwarded to the entire PSPB in order to initiate a discussion prior to the November PSPB meeting. That note to the PSPB outlined my objections to the process that allowed Setti to be nominated without my knowledge. I asked for insight into their decision to choose Setti. (letter available here). There was a minor diversion cause by my misinformation about the members of the NAC. I received a response from Samir El-Ghazaly 7/4/18 indicating a receipt and noting the it was the NAC’s problem. I received a response from John Baillieul 7/5/18 indicating misstatements and misunderstandings about the NAC process. On 7/6/18, I asked for clarifications of these misstatements and misunderstandings. I have had no further response from the NAC.

7/16/18 After receiving no further response from the NAC, I emailed Steve Yurkovich and Pete Morley of the Documents Working Group seeking answers to my questions about the EIC selection process are defined by the Opsmanual. I copied Samir on that email. The complete note to them cited several specific parts of the Opsmanual. The complete note is available here. The major question was how could Setti be nominated without my knowledge. From the Opsmanual

### **3.5.3 Appointment of the Editor-in-Chief**

The Editor-in-Chief of the PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE and the Editor-in-Chief of the IEEE PRESS are nominated by their respective boards. Their names shall be submitted to PSPB Nominations & Appointments Committee who shall in turn submit to PSPB for appointment.

It does not say how the boards will make the nominations. I followed the past process (to the best of my knowledge) and found candidates who had excellent records of board service and asked them if they wanted to be nominated. They filled out the nomination form and I wrote a letter to the N&A Committee giving my evaluation of the nominees. After the deadline for nominations, I discovered via the “grapevine” that there was another nominee, Gianluca Setti. I do not understand how this nomination was made.

The Opsmanual says

The Editor-in-Chief shall chair the PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE Editorial Board and shall represent the Board on PSPB.

The Editor-in-Chief shall have served as a member of the

PROCEEDINGS OF THE IEEE Editorial Board prior to being elected the Editor-in-Chief.

If I am the editorial board's representative to the PSPB, how could I not know of a nominee? Am I not the conduit for the nominations from the board to the N&A Committee?

7/16/18 Steve Yurkovich responded that he and Pete Morley had discussions about this and it was at the top of the agenda for a PSPB Documents Working Group Teleconference 7/27/18. I was on travel in China during this time and could not attend. I found afterward that the topic had been deleted from the agenda. I do not know who was responsible for that.

8/1/18 Yurkovich invites me to consult with the Document Working Group on modifications to better codify the EIC selection process. I agree to help and to keep the discussions confidential.

8/16/18 Received suggested modifications to Ops manual

8/19/18 Sent my response to modifications.

9/7/18 After having no response for the NAC, I emailed them again with copy to El-Ghazaly. I noted that the intent of the first request was to get a discussion initiated before the November PSPB meeting. Now time was beginning to get short.

9/12/18 El-Ghazaly responded that he had requested a complete search of the [EIC selection] process used in the past. He indicated that when this was done, he would work with the NAC to clarify the next step.

9/12/18 Gordon MacPherson emails minutes of June PSPB meeting

9/17/18 I noticed that on the minutes Setti is listed in the role of Spectrum representative on the PSPB. I email MacPherson to confirm this since Setti is not listed on the editorial board of the Spectrum. The Opsmanual states in Section 2.1 “..one IEEE Young Professional member appointed by the Chair for a one-year term; the Editors-in-Chief of IEEE Press, Proceedings, and Potentials; **one member from each of the Spectrum and Institute Advisory Boards**; one current or past member of the Computer Society Board of Governors,...”  
It would seem this appointment is in appropriate.

9/18/18 MacPherson responds that Susan Hassler, the Spectrum EIC, has indicated it was an error that Setti was left off the list.

9/19/18 Yurkovich and Morley complete draft of search/summary of EIC Selection process. Send to ?

9/19/18 I email MacPherson and Hassler indicating that after checking the minutes of the minutes of the November 2016 PSPB meeting, Setti is not listed as an approved member of the Spectrum Editorial Board.

9/25/18 MacPherson emails a response from El-Ghazali. The dates in this response did not agree with known events.

9/25/18 I asked El-Ghazali for clarification of his appointment of Setti as Spectrum representative.

9/26/18 El-Ghazali emails requesting a phone conversation as soon as the next steps in clarifying the EIC selection process is done.

10/4/18 I email El-Ghazali and MacPherson that I have not heard anything and I would like to have a board-wide discussion on the EIC Selection process. I note that time is not getting critical.

10/5/18 MacPherson emails El-Ghazali's request to the PSPB to vote on asking the NAC to submit either one or two candidates for the PiEEE EIC position.

10/8/18 El-Ghazali emails me copy of the history of the EIC selection process.  
Document available [here](#)

10/8/18 I email Yurkovich and Morley indicating several inaccuracies in the history document. Annotated document [here](#).

10/8/18 Phone call with El-Ghazali – discussion of options, I ask for all nominees to be presented as the best option for a commitment to transparency. El-Ghazali supports to the one or two candidates at the discretion of the NAC – perhaps related to the online vote. El-Ghazali gives explanation of Setti appointment as Spectrum representative.

10/9/18 I email El-Ghazali asking for clarification of his explanation of the Setti appointment.

10/10/18 because of errors, I email Yurkovich and Morley asking for information about who they contacted as sources for the history document. Yurkovich responds that he is currently busy but he'll get back this weekend.