

Guidelines for Nominating Committee, American Society for Environmental History
March 1, 2018

The nominating committee of the American Society for Environmental History is charged with assembling a slate of nominees for the Society's officers, elected members of the executive committee, and members of the nominating committee. Per ASEH's bylaws, this slate is established 90 days in advance of biennial elections, which take place prior to odd-year ASEH meetings. The slate includes one nominee for president (customarily the current vice president), vice president, and other executive positions (such as treasurer or secretary). The slate includes two nominees for each vacant position on the executive committee and nominating committee. The next round of elections will take place in January 2019.

In executing this responsibility, the nominating committee seeks to assemble a slate of outstanding candidates which represents the breadth and diversity of scholars contributing to the society, including scholars with a range of research interests and relevant experiences.

In the past, nominees for ASEH leaders have included scholars with both scholarly and non-scholarly appointments with a demonstrated commitment to environmental history, often exemplified by a strong record of publication in the field, and a record of leadership (either in ASEH or a similar organization).

The nominating committee begins the process of assembling a slate for January elections in the preceding summer, finalizing it in the fall. In approaching the task, the committee follows some general guidelines as explained below:

1. The nominating committee holds a preliminary conversation about the goals for the composition of the ASEH leadership slate in the forthcoming election. This goal-setting conversation considers the importance of a broadly representative leadership slate, as well as the need for the ASEH leadership to be equipped (through diverse experience and perspectives) to ensure the health and ongoing evolution of the organization.
2. ASEH's executive director provides the nominating committee with a list of ASEH committees for the past three years and a list of current members.
3. The nominating committee seeks to engage the entire society early in this process (preferably in the spring prior to elections) by communicating to the membership through a newsletter article, blog post, or other means explaining the process by which the slate is assembled, and which positions are open.
4. The committee actively seeks nominations, both self-nominations and nominations of others, through appropriate modes of communication (email, social media, etc.) in the summer prior to elections.
5. The nominating committee solicits recommendations from other ASEH committees and groups regarding potential nominees, such as the Diversity Committee, Women's Network, and Graduate Caucus.

6. From this list of nominations, recommendations, and its own familiarity with nominees who may be suitable, the nominating committee makes a short list of potential candidates for each position, and contacts them to see whether they would be willing to run, until a slate has been assembled, which it then submits to the executive director.