



**American Brain Foundation
Governance Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2016
Held via Teleconference**

Call to order: Tuesday, May 3, 2016 at 9:02 a.m. CST by Kevin Goodno, Chair.

In attendance: Kevin Goodno, Chair; Terrence Cascino, MD; John Mazziotta, MD; Catherine Rydell; Thomas Swift, MD

Staff: Jane Ransom; John Hutchins, JD

Mr. Goodno called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. CST.

1. Approval of March 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the March meeting were reviewed.

MOTION to approve Governance minutes from March 1, 2016
Approved

2. Election of Susan Schneider Williams to the ABF Board: Susan Williams has been elected to the ABF Board via an email vote. There was no request for a meeting by any member of the board.

3. Board Recruitment: Now that the goals and strategies for the strategic plan have been adopted, it is appropriate to begin recruiting for the Board. The committee discussed a number of issues related to the Board's transition.

a. Recommended board size and rate of growth

Committee members believe we should aim toward a board of 21 members, per our bylaws, but that the rate of growth should be gradual.

b. Appropriate mix of neurologists and public board members

The committee is in agreement with the Alford Group benchmark of reaching a 50:50 ratio of neurologists to public board members by January 1, 2020. After this it is likely that we will choose to move toward a 25:75 ratio of neurologists to public board members.

c. Geographic priorities

The committee wants a list of the centers of highest concentration of wealthy individuals in the U.S. for reference. Recruitment should be prioritized to draw from those centers. Alignment with the location of high priority fundraising activities should also be considered.

d. Ideal attributes of future public board members

Wealthy individuals with excellent connections and influence are obviously high priority. However, anyone we recruit to the board must also be willing to be active and to take their governance and fiduciary responsibilities seriously.

The honorary board can be a tool for involving highly visible, highly connected people who do not want to do the work of a regular board members. Former Public Leadership in Philanthropy Award winners may be candidates to pursue for the honorary board.

e. Ideal attributes of future neurologist board members

Neurologist board members should be donors to the ABF and should ideally come from one of the geographic areas we are targeting. Candidates should have excellent social skills and the ability to tell donors the story of the ABF and our mission in a compelling and understandable way.

If a neurologist on the ABF board is connected with an academic institution, they must have the broadness of mind to represent the ABF with donors in their area if the ABF identified the donor before their institution did.

The ABF/AAN relationship will continue to be very important in the future, so our neurologist board members should include leaders who are influential within the AAN. We also need to have a neurologist with the stature to lead the ABF's Research Advisory Committee on the Board.

- 4. Next Steps:** Staff will get more information on high wealth metro areas. On the June 7th Governance Committee conference call we will cross check our current pool of candidates with the wealth areas and attributes identified today. If possible we will select some candidates to interview.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m. CST.