



**American Brain Foundation
Governance Committee Meeting
September 16, 2019**

**10:00 a.m. EST/ 9:00 a.m. CST/ 8:00 a.m. MST/ 7:00 a.m. PST
Conference Call**

In attendance: Kevin Goodno, Chair; David Dodick, MD; John Mazziotta, MD

Staff: Jane Ransom, ED; Lisa Deutsch

Excused: Dan Gasby; Catherine Rydell, CAE; A. Gordon Smith, MD,

Mr. Kevin Goodno, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. CT. The minutes of August 1, 2019 were approved unanimously. The next agenda item was Onboarding New Board Members.

1. Onboarding New Board Members

The Board discussed ideas for onboarding our five new members at its meeting of September 15, 2019. Several ideas emerged:

- Each new member needs a brief webinar to cover Board 101 basics, bylaws, and legal obligations.
- Ms. Rydell presented a compelling idea, to have the ED and/or Board Chair travel to spend a day with each new member to build a personal relationship. Ms. Ransom and Dr. Dodick are committed to this plan.
- Assign each new member a mentor, someone with experience who can be available for questions, coaching, and one-on-one advice.

Our Board meeting in February 2020:

- Provides an opportunity to bring all new members together to build a relationship with each other and integrate into the community of the board.
- Mr. Dodick, as our new Board Chair, will organize a meeting to discuss strategic planning based on our new relationship agreement with the AAN.

It was noted that several of our newest board members would also benefit from a mentor relationship, to strengthen their engagement and relationships. A suggestion was made to partner each new public member with a doctor, and vice versa. Ms. Ransom will summarize these ideas and communicate them via email.

2. Brainstorm Future Priorities of the Governance Committee

With the approval of our newest board members, the board is at capacity, with no terms expiring until 2022. With that in mind, Mr. Goodno led a discussion on Governance priorities.

- A. Keeping our alumni members involved and engaged with the ABF. Ideas included:
 - Placing them on standing committees as appropriate
 - Create an alumni “council”, give them an ad hoc project, an event to own and be responsible for as a team
 - Gather socially at the AAN meeting, give informational updates, and treat them as ABF “ambassadors”
- B. Mr. Dodick and Mr. Goodno will start setting the committee structure for 2020.
- C. A future focus of the Governance Committee could be on developing an Advisory Council.
- D. Mr. Goodno suggested the incoming Executive Committee should discuss and determine priorities. Our work should flow from the new committee leaders.
- E. Ms. Ransom would like to keep the people who were considered for board from the AAN’s diverse leadership groups, informed and engaged with the ABF.
- F. Dr. Dodick suggested that Dr. Shulman and Dr. Smith may be good candidates to consult on our new relationship and strategic alignment with the AAN board.
- G. Ms. Ransom raised a question regarding the role of the board. Do we need an agreement about how to operate? What should the balance be between discussions vs. hearing reports? Dr. Dodick noted the marketing discussion yesterday was not presented at the right level for the board. We may want to consider tying a board member to each staff strategic initiative, so it’s presented in tandem with the board meeting.

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2019. We may cancel this meeting. Ms. Ransom will keep the committee apprised.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:25 a.m. CT