



**American Brain Foundation
Governance Committee Meeting
June 15, 2020
9:00 a.m. CT
Video Conference Call**

In attendance: Kevin Goodno, Chair; Susan Schneider Williams, BFA; Frances Jensen, MD; David Dodick, MD

Staff: Jane Ransom, ED; Kim Howard

Excused: Ben Utecht

Mr. Kevin Goodno, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. CT. The minutes of May 18, 2020 were approved unanimously.

Discuss Statement on Injustice, Inequality and Racism (Kevin Goodno) The goal over the last 4 years was to increase diversity and we have made good steps toward that goal. We have also been very committed to looking at diversity as we move forward. Dr. Dodick has received some positive comments related to our statement, he said people appreciated how we tied our message into our mission and that we acknowledged George Floyd by name. David is hoping we can enhance the diversity of our board by putting actions behind these words.

Ms. Ransom noted that our bylaws allow for us to put non-board members on our committees, so that is another thing we could do in addition to putting people on the board. Last year Jane and Gordon Smith had a good discussion with Jeff McClain on the board of the AAN and he provided 6- 7 name of up and coming leaders of color in the AAN. Following that discussion we recruited Maisha Robinson to join our C2C Committee. We should get to know some of those members and possibly get them on our Committees.

Mr. Goodno mentioned that having a diverse and broad board is important, more importantly do the people fit the criteria we are looking for so the challenge is finding the right balance. Dr. Dodick thinks we can find that balance. He discussed thinking outside-the-box for people of color who are not necessarily AAN members, but are leaders in the neuro area, such as Dr. Keith Black, chair of neuro surgery for 22 year at Cedar Sini. He is incredibly well connected, knows everyone in Hollywood, and is a very influential neurosurgeon, he could be a public member.

Ms. Williams asked what our goal is for the split of the board. Mr. Goodno said our 4-year goal was to have 50% neurologists and 50% public members of the board with the thought of having a majority of public members at some point. The board has not talked about this since we accomplished our first goal of the 50/50. The profile of the board really needed to change from one that more internal facing to one that was more external facing. We still want the connection with the AAN, but we really want people that have contacts that would use those contact to raise money and build the foundation. If we have someone that fits that criteria and they can help us with the diversity issue that would be great. The balance discussion could be part of the strategic planning perspective of where we see ourselves and where we want to be, for now we could keep it in that 50/50 range so we are not skewed one way or another.

Dr. Dodick said we should not be intimidated by having the balance tip slightly to the public members. It is the public members that are going to help with the visibility and fundraising. We should aim high for people of color and people in government could be good as well for example Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice. Ms. Ransom also mentioned Michelle Obama, whose father had MS. Ms. Williams said what is interesting about that is getting into the political side, then it gets to the military side which leads to a lot of TBI and a lot of Parkinson's. The Pentagon has a big budget for Parkinson's alone.

Mr. Goodno said we should be committed to this and not just react to the current moment. We do not want to be disingenuous. Dr. Dodick said we should be routinely and discuss diversity at the board level. Mr. Goodno said we need to look at diversity at several different levels to make sure we have a good balance on the board, he gave examples of another board he is on that look for diversity that includes many different voices including Women, Black, Hispanic, Native American, LGBTQ, Conservative and Liberal. We could change the way we approach our search to find this balance. Ms. Williams added that we need to make sure that the people we recruit have a personal connection to brain disease. She mentioned Corey Booker, whose father had Parkinson's. He has done a lot of work to help support. Mr. Goodno said we need to be cognizant of how closely people are involved to the political side of the world since the world is so divisive right now. We need to have a broad diversity of thought as well; we don't want to have one, single perspective on issues.

Results of Board Recruitment Survey to Date (Jane Ransom) We have extended the time for our board to respond to the survey since we did not have many responses yet. Mr. Goodno suggested sending the survey to the past ABF Chair.

The board prospect list was shared and it was decided that we will wait until the next meeting before we go through the names and discuss. Ms. Howard will provide details on each person. Mr. Goodno mentioned that the attendance was a little light on the public members at the most recent board meeting. Mr. Goodno said we should look at attendance by individual to see how actively they are participating. If people are not attending and are not involved in some other way we need to take that into consideration. Mr. Goodno requested to go over the list of the board members whose terms will be up at the end of this year and have a strategy on how to outreach and talk to them about their interests going forward.

Nomination of Walter Koroshetz, MD to Research Advisory Committee (Frances Jensen)

Dr. Walter Koroshetz was a rising star at Harvard, then moved to NINDS as deputy director alongside Storey Landis. Dr. Koroshetz is more clinical, with expertise was a clinician researcher mostly focused on stroke and now he has developed deep expertise in all things clinical neuroscience and has been a very effective NINDS Chair. He is author of the Brain Initiative; he has fashioned amazing grand visions for the field. He has interacted and helped guide the American Brain Coalition. Dr. Dodick has asked him and he has verbally said that he would join our Research Advisory Committee. His knowledge of all of the organizations in the "brain space" will give us the opportunity of funding helping to fill in the gaps.

The motion was made to nominate Walter Koroshetz to the Research Advisory Committee followed by a board email vote that will be sent out today. This motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:39 a.m. CT