



**American Brain Foundation
Governance Committee Meeting
July 20, 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 9:04 a.m. CT. The minutes of June 15, 2020 were approved unanimously.

Board Term Expiration Roster (Jane Ransom)

Four board member terms expire on 12/31/2020. They are all eligible for another term. Dr. Dodick will contact these board members (Dan Gasby, Ron Peterson, Sharon Klein and Suzanne Miller) to discuss their term renewals. If the four return, we have no openings for 2020 unless Ben Utecht resigns. Kevin will reach out to Ben to confirm with him that he still wants to resign from the board and the timing.

Update Candidate List with Bios (Jane Ransom)

The list of candidates was presented and discussion focused on the following people:

- **Mike Haynes** - Former NFL football player, Super Bowl champion, Hall of Famer. He would be a very suitable replacement for Ben Utecht, although we do have Sean Sansiveri from the NFL Players Association on the board.
- **Mayim Bialk** - Actress from *Big Bang Theory* who is a neuroscientist. She could be a bridge between the general public, the entertainment world, and neuroscience.
- **JoAnne Berger-Sweeney** – President of Trinity College, neuroscientist, African American. Very active in advocacy, very public minded, very well-respected in the field, and very connected. She is active in the Society for Neuroscience. She could be a bridge into basic neuroscience where she is still very knowledgeable in education and advocacy.
- **Keith Black** – Chair of Neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai, extremely well-connected in LA and beyond. His connection with glioblastoma could be a real positive if that is our next focus, African American, and a very strong candidate.

The next step is to narrow the list to 5-7 people from the overall pool. It is appropriate to start talking with potential candidates for 2022 openings.

Mr. Goodno noted that Susan Williams and Marty Shenkman will be term limited out at the end of 2021 and there are many people up for renewals as well. The intent was to have board members on for three 2-year terms but that was just random so that could change if necessary. We have a lot with renewing or with terms up at the end of 2021 so we need to keep that in

mind. We will hold off on looking further at any of these candidates until we hear back from David if we have any openings for this year.

Action on 2020 Candidate Ben LeNail (Jane Ransom)

Ben LeNail, a friend of David Eagleman's is interested in joining the board. Jane Ransom interviewed him. David Dodick and Kevin Goodno then had a call with him. Ben has a commitment to brain disease because he has a rare one which is progressive. He has experience on several boards and has been successful in raising money. He is an angel investor in brain-related start-ups. He is personable and does not believe he has any conflicts of interest when it comes to raising money. With his experience he could help map the landscape and form strategic partnerships with Pharma. He has done his homework on the ABF. He believes in our mission and vision and seems genuinely committed. David and Kevin recommended that we offer Ben LeNail a position on the board once we confirm Ben Utecht's desire to resign and the timing.

Mr. LeNail does not help us on the diversity front so this makes it a priority if we are considering other candidates, we should focus on candidates that enhance the diversity of the board.

MOTION : The motion was made to recommend Ben LeNail to a board position to replace Ben Utecht contingent on confirmation of Ben Utecht's desire to resign. Motion passed unanimously. The recommendation will be presented to the board on August 6, 2020.

Research Advisory Committee Term Expiration Roster: Current Openings (Jane Ransom)

Dr. Dodick gave an update on the status of Dr. Walter Koroshetz joining the RAC. Dr. Koroshetz is enthusiastic about joining, but it needs to be approved by the NIH. Information has been provided to the NIH and we are awaiting their decision.

RAC term expirations were discussed. Three members, including Dr. James Grotta, Dr. Phyllis Zee, Dr. Jose Cavazos, are ending their first terms at the end of 2020. There are no concerns with the three members so Jane Ransom and Dr. Griggs will check in with each of these members to confirm they want to continue for another term.

Several people who have been on the RAC for five years are due to term out at the end of 2021. There is no limit on the number of people that can serve on this committee so we can start adding people soon to be ready when people start to drop off at the end of 2021. We should consider adding an additional 3 people to the RAC for a total of 15, including Dr. Koroshetz.

Dr. Jensen suggested a board-level discussion about the purpose and direction of the RAC, looking at what it has accomplished so far, and what we see it doing in the future. If we are going to start to forge new relationships with other organizations, should we consider going beyond AAN's leadership for nominations to the RAC? Should we have representatives from some of our partner organizations such as Alzheimer's or Epilepsy?

Another idea that was discussed was that of putting more of the neurologists from the ABF board on this committee. We might consider adding someone with Neuroscience to benefit our Cure One, Cure Many mission. We also need to promote diversity on the RAC. Out of the 10 people currently on the RAC there are Hispanic, one Asian-American and two women.

The Governance committee discussed the idea of a sub-committee be created to look at how the RAC should be structured and what the procedures are for that group. Dr. Dodick

recommended that Dr. Jensen lead this sub-committee and she accepted. Jane will follow-up with Dr. Jensen and work with Dr. Dodick on establishing this committee with potential member being Dr. Peterson, Dr. Grotta, Dr. Jeste and Dr. Griggs. Kevin requested that Jane provide Dr. Jensen with the details about the RAC including a list of RAC members and specialties as well as the minutes of their last meeting and what is the AAN part of the process for our current RAC.

Ms. Ransom will let Dr. Griggs know that the Governance committee discussed this and we think we are at a turning point and we want him to be on a committee to think about the future of the RAC and mention the turnover challenges coming up as well.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:01 a.m. CT

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