



**American Brain Foundation
Governance Committee Meeting
December 13, 2021
9:00 a.m. CT
Video Conference Call**

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

Excused: Mary Post

Staff: Jane Ransom, ED

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. CT by Dr. Shafali Jeste.

The Governance Committee meeting minutes of September 20, 2021 were approved unanimously.

ABF Advisory Council Discussion (Dr. Shafali Jeste)

The idea of establishing an ABF Advisory Council was proposed at the October 2021 board meeting and after some discussion it became clear that the proposal needed more thought and formulation before bringing it to the board.

The original purpose was to find a way to keep former board members and former awardees involved and connected with the ABF. Some past board members and awardees have expressed interest in finding ways to still be involved with the ABF and we want to find a way to keep them involved.

We need to think more about what this would look like since it could potentially be a large group. Our concept needs more structure and focus. A few of the ideas the Board had suggested were for the Advisory Council to:

- Have a focus or scope of something it should accomplish each year
- Have a theme to work on
- Have criteria for how the members are selected
- Have terms
- Help with priorities identified with by the Board

Committee members agreed that an Advisory Council should not be established just to have one or to engage people who don't do anything. At the same time, the non-neurologist committee members (Susan Williams and Kevin Goodno)—both outgoing board members—said that they want to keep up to speed with ABF and to be ambassadors, but that they didn't want to join something like a board. As a soon to be former board member, Susan Williams stressed wanting "involvement, but not duties." That involvement would look like ambassadorship—i.e., being up-to-speed on ABF's work and priorities and making connections to people and organizations who can help us.

Kevin Goodno said that former non-neurologist board meetings would be the hardest to keep involved because they won't be going to AAN meetings and seeing each other. In populating the

Advisory Council, we should consider keeping a balance between neurologists and non-neurologists.

Members felt that the Advisory Council should not add another layer of strategic planning to the organization. Dr. Jeste said that when she is a former board member, she would like to help with “specific asks.”

Regarding terms, Dr. Porter shared her requirements for her nonprofit’s advisory committee. They are asked to attend two meeting per year and if they miss two meetings, they resign their seat. That keeps people accountable. Different members are assigned specific tasks to keep where they can be helpful to the organization and stay engaged.

At a minimum, ABF should have an annual check-in with past board members and awardees so they are kept apprised of what we are doing and can share what they are doing.

Jane and David thanked the three board members that are transitioning off the board since this is their last meeting and invited them to join the in-person meeting if it works with their schedule in 2022.

Dr. Jeste adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.