

**Society of American Archivists Foundation  
Board of Directors Meeting  
March 23, 2022  
Virtual Meeting**

**Revise Nominating Committee Description  
(Prepared by Dennis Meissner)**

**BACKGROUND**

In the early stages of its 2022 discussions, the Nominating Committee encountered a novel situation in which one of its Class B members may seek election to an additional term in office. This situation will force the affected committee member to recuse herself from committee work during the key phases of the committee's work, thereby affecting the committee's effectiveness.

**DISCUSSION**

In past election cycles this situation did not arise, largely because the nomination of candidates was less formal and did not require the submission of a standard written application. The revised process requires sitting board members seeking re-election to be evaluated anew alongside all other applicants for a Board seat. This change makes it impossible for a Nominating Committee member seeking re-election to be part of the committee's deliberation process, thereby effectively removing that member from crucial phases of the committee's work and making the committee less effective.

To rectify this problem in the future, the Nominating Committee recommends an addition to the current committee description that would make Foundation Board members entering the final year of their term of service ineligible to serve on the Nominating Committee. With this provision in place, no future Nominating Committee will include any member who might need to seek recusal from important committee deliberations.

In addition, the committee recommends changing the size of the committee from a chair and two additional members, to chair and three additional members, which both reflects the current *de facto* situation and acknowledges the need for a larger committee complement in the present environment.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the SAA Foundation Nominating Committee description be revised as follows:**

**Section II. Committee Selection, Size, and Length of Term**

The Nominating Committee is an appointed body of the SAA Foundation Board. The Committee consists of the SAAF Executive Committee member (who serves as Chair) and ~~two~~ three additional members of the Board, selected by the Board no later than the close of the Board's annual meeting. Foundation Board members in the last year of their current term are not eligible

to serve on the Nominating Committee. The Executive Director serves *ex officio* with voice, but without vote.

**Support Statement:** Revising the Nominating Committee description in these two particulars removes an impediment to the effective functioning of the committee and brings the committee description in line with current practice.

**Fiscal Impact:** None.