

**Society of American Archivists Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting
August 13, 2020
Virtual Meeting**

**Reevaluation of the Board Recruitment Process
(Prepared by JoyEllen Williams, Angelique Richardson, and Meredith Evans)**

BACKGROUND

Angelique Richardson and JoyEllen Williams, with the support of Meredith Evans, propose two discussion items during the August 14 annual meeting of the Foundation Board:

- Formation of a communications committee (Agenda Item III.A.) and
- Clarification and reevaluation of the board member recruitment process (Agenda Item III.B.)

We believe that discussing and reevaluating these areas can strengthen the relationship between the Foundation Board and its sole client, SAA. By submitting these agenda items, we hope to encourage a discussion that examines the effectiveness of current communication strategies and Board member recruitment processes. These discussions can help improve the effectiveness of the SAA Foundation.

One of the main ways to ensure the long-term success and viability of the SAA Foundation is to recruit diverse and forward-thinking Board members. The Foundation Board has made progress in this area over the last few years; however, it seems that the process is still limited by personal networks. It may be useful to reevaluate this process with the Nominating Committee and determine if there are ways to recruit members by drawing upon SAA membership more holistically. The SAA Foundation bylaws provide flexibility in this area, which leaves room for rich discussion among the Board.

DISCUSSION

Section 5.3.2. of the SAA Foundation bylaws states, “Class B Directors shall be elected by the Corporate Member at the spring meeting of the Corporate Member, based on a slate developed by the Corporation’s existing Board or a committee thereof.” The SAA Foundation has created a Nominating Committee to handle this task. It may be useful for the Foundation Board to collectively reevaluate its membership needs and discuss ways to improve the recruitment process. By utilizing new, fresh methods of recruitment, the

Foundation can increase its pool of candidates and draw upon new energy within the archival community.

Potential benefits:

- A chance to evaluate the membership needs of the SAA Foundation and determine if recruitment methods are serving these needs;
- Extend reach within SAA; and
- Rid ourselves of an exclusivity stigma.

Potential considerations:

- Feasibility of large-scale methods and wide calls for members;
- New methods should be consistent with bylaws; and
- Diversity and inclusion.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What are the membership goals of the SAA Foundation over the next 5-10 years?
2. How does the Nominating Committee and the Board feel about the effectiveness of the current Class B member recruitment process? Is there room for improvement?
3. How might a widespread call for Board members enhance/challenge/diversify/complicate the recruitment process?