The Council’s By-Laws provide for a Board consisting of thirty-five Directors (plus the President, ex officio), divided into five classes of seven Directors. Each class serves for a term of five years. In each class, three Directors are elected by the membership and four are appointed by the Board.

Directors with terms expiring on June 30, 2009, were Madeleine K. Albright, Richard N. Foster, Maurice R. Greenberg, Henry R. Kravis, Joseph S. Nye Jr., James W. Owens, and Fareed Zakaria.

The Nominating and Governance Committee was composed of Henry S. Bienen (Chair), Madeleine Albright, Mary McInnis Boies, Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Kenneth M. Duberstein, Bart Friedman, Nancy A. Jarvis, Kenneth I. Juster, Maria Elena Lagomasino, Edward J. Mathias, Penny S. Pritzker, Theodore Roosevelt IV, Stanley S. Shuman, G. Richard Thoman, R. Keith Walton, and Christine Todd Whitman. On January 2, 2009, the Chair invited the Council membership to propose possible candidates. The Nominating and Governance Committee met on March 9 to consider the pool of names suggested by Council members for the three elective vacancies. (Madeleine Albright recused herself from the meeting.) Mindful of its mandate to consider “the need for diversity with regard to age, sex, race, geographical representation, and professional background,” the Nominating and Governance Committee developed the following slate of nominees: Madeleine Albright, Robert C. Bonner, Donna J. Hrinak, Robert W. Jordan, Jim Kolbe, and Fareed Zakaria. On March 26, Council members were notified of the slate and of the petition process available to them in accordance with the By-Laws. No petition candidate was put forth. A ballot was mailed to all Council members on April 30.

At the Annual Meeting for the Election of Directors on June 4, 2009, 1,647 members participated in person or by proxy, fulfilling the quorum required by By-Law V. Merit E. Janow’s name was written on ten or more ballots cast at the meeting, and, therefore, Merit Janow was nominated for the 2010 election by the write-in procedure outlined in the By-Laws. Sarah A.W. Fitts, David R. Slade, and Nancy Young served as election overseers. The following nominees were elected for five-year terms beginning July 1, 2009, and expiring June 30, 2014: Madeleine Albright, Donna Hrinak, and Fareed Zakaria. Under current procedures, the Board completed the Class of 2014 by appointing four Directors. Acting on the recommendation of the Nominating and Governance Committee the Board appointed four Council members to serve five-year terms as Directors in the Class of 2014, beginning July 1, 2009, and expiring June 30, 2014: David G. Bradley, Henry Kravis, James Owens, and Frederick W. Smith. Additionally, in accordance with By-Law IV(C), the Board appointed: Martin S. Feldstein to the Class of 2010, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Stephen W. Bosworth; Penny Pritzker to the Class of 2011, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Richard C. Holbrooke; and Joseph Nye to the Class of 2013, filling the vacancy created by the resignation of Anne-Marie Slaughter.