

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 26, 2024; 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. PT
Plaza B, Hilton San Francisco Union Square

IN ATTENDANCE (ALPHA ORDER)

Ellen Beckjord, PhD, MPH, FSBM President	Bernard Fuemmeler, PhD, MPH, FSBM Immediate Past-President and Chair, Leadership Identification and Inclusion Committee	Scherezade Mama, DrPH Chair, Scientific Education Council
Courtney Bonner, PhD Member Delegate	Christine Hunter, PhD, ABPP President-Elect	Sharon L. Manne, PhD, FSBM Chair, Professional Advancement Council
Joanna Buscemi, PhD Member Delegate	Charles Jonassaint, PhD, MHS Member Delegate	Megan McVay, PhD Secretary/Treasurer and Chair, Finance Committee
Michael Diefenbach, PhD, FSBM – Chair, Development Council	Jun Ma, MD, PhD, FAHA Chair, Publications Council	Angela Pfammatter, PhD, FSBM Chair, Membership Council
Roger Figueroa, PhD Chair, Advocacy Council		

GUESTS (ALPHA ORDER)

Shalini Agarwal Special Counsel, Protect Democracy		
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STAFF (ALPHA ORDER)

Lindsay Bullock, CAE Executive Director	Andrew Schmidt Senior Program Manager	Tara Withington, CAE Consulting Partner
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CALL TO ORDER, CALL FOR DISCLOSURES, AND CONFIDENTIALITY REMINDER

Dr. Beckjord called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. PT. No new disclosures were made. Dr. Beckjord emphasized confidentiality.

ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR NEW U.S. POLICY LANDSCAPE

Dr. Beckjord introduced the discussion by sharing the results of recent SBM surveys regarding advocacy priorities and the impact of recent federal policy shifts, as well as reviewing an ASAE Driver of Change about how associations could respond to political and social polarization.

The Board then separated into breakout groups to discuss three potential priority areas and attempt to identify actions that SBM could pursue in each of those areas in the near term: advocating for topics/specialties within behavioral medicine that are under attack; defending the integrity of the scientific enterprise (particularly from targeted funding cuts at NIH); and supporting early-career investigators in the researcher pipeline.

Dr. Buscemi joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m. PT. Dr. Ma joined the meeting at 11 a.m. PT.

After reconvening, the breakout group that had discussed strengthening the researcher pipeline suggested that this priority aligned closely with SBM's existing strategic outcome of serving as an "Indispensable Professional Resource" for its members. Dr. Beckjord proposed addressing this priority by collecting best practices and creative solutions for early-career investigators to continue advancing in their careers despite adversity and making them available through webinars, publications, Annual Meeting sessions, and/or an expansion of SBM's Consultation Program. The Board discussed a desire to involve SBM Fellows in the identification of creative solutions. We would know this was successful if our number of early-career members holds steady.

The group that discussed advocating for targeted areas of research suggested SBM could have the most impact through its existing advocacy channels by encouraging members to draft position statements on importance of funding for the most common topics in the recent member survey; namely, health disparities, vaccines, women's health, and reproductive health. They also suggested leveraging policy partner organizations, travel stipends, and possibly offering small research awards. We would know this was successful if our overall member numbers are maintained.

The group that discussed defending the scientific enterprise and funding focused largely on prevention research. They recommended more public education about science by encouraging members to work with their university community engagement offices and by possibly fundraising to pay for the writing of public education materials and scripts that could be used with the public as well as with federal and state/local lawmakers.

MOTION: Dr. Ma moved to formally task the Professional Advancement Council with cataloging best practices from SBM Fellows for early-career investigators facing uncertainty in their careers. Dr. Diefenbach seconded. The motion carried.

MOTION: Dr. Buscemi moved to formally task the Position Statements Committee with developing statements in support of continued research funding in the areas of health disparities, vaccination, and women's health. Dr. Manne seconded. The motion carried.

DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE LEGAL MATTER

Shalini Agarwal joined the meeting at 12:45 p.m. PT.

CONFIDENTIAL--THIS PORTION OF THE MINUTES IS PROTECTED BY
THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, AND INCLUDES PRIVILEGED DISCUSSION OF
LEGAL ADVICE, AND WILL NOT BE POSTED PUBLICLY

Dr. Buscemi left the meeting at 2:30 p.m. PT.

END OF CONFIDENTIAL SECTION

2025 ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

Dr. Beckjord reported final attendee counts as of the beginning of the meeting (~1,800), and shared a calendar of key sessions and networking events that Board members were encouraged to attend during the conference.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. PT.

Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Schmidt on April 14, 2025.