

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2025, 3-4 p.m. ET
Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE (ALPHA ORDER)

Ellen Beckjord, PhD, MPH, FSBM – President	Charles Jonassaint, PhD, MHS – Member Delegate	Sharon Manne, PhD, FSBM – Chair, Professional Advancement Council
Joanna Buscemi, PhD – Member Delegate	Christine Hunter, PhD, ABPP – President-Elect	Megan McVay, PhD – Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Diefenbach, PhD, FSBM – Chair, Development Council	Scherezade Mama, DrPH – Chair, Scientific Education Council	Angela Pfammatter, PhD, FSBM – Chair, Membership Council
Roger Figueroa, PhD – Chair, Advocacy Council		

*quorum = 7 members

REGRETS (ALPHA ORDER)

Courtney Bonner, PhD – Member Delegate	Bernard Fuemmeler, PhD, MPH, FSBM – Immediate Past-President	Jun Ma, MD, PhD, FAHA – Chair, Publications Council
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STAFF AND GUESTS (ALPHA ORDER)

Lindsay Bullock, CAE – Executive Director	Eli Gonzalez-Rehorst, MS – Development Manager	Emily Takerian – Communications Manager
Taylor Burnham – Administrative Coordinator	Amy Myers – Senior Communications and Membership Manager	Sam Wilson – Senior Meetings Manager
Fiona Cismesia – Meetings Manager	Andrew Schmidt – Senior Program Manager	Tara Withington, CAE – Consulting Partner

CALL TO ORDER, CALL FOR DISCLOSURES, AND CONFIDENTIALITY REMINDER

Dr. Beckjord called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. ET. No new disclosures were reported.

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

Dr. Beckjord shared two proposed changes to SBM's bylaws: First, the terms of affiliate membership would be revised to allow those members to vote in SBM elections and run for elected office, and be approved by the Executive Committee rather than the full Board for efficiency. With the exception of these privileges, affiliate members already retain the same membership status and benefits as full members, and a number of current affiliate members have requested a bylaws change to address the disparity. The Membership Council reviewed and proposes this change be made.

The second proposed change to the bylaws would give the Executive Committee the authority to approve council and committee

memberships, and award and Fellowship decisions, to continue to allow oversight but with greater efficiency and nimbleness for routine matters.

MOTION: Dr. Manne moved to approve presenting the proposed bylaws changes to the membership with the upcoming SBM board election. Dr. Mama seconded. The motion carried.

STATEMENT ON U.S. FEDERAL POLICY CHANGES

Dr. Beckjord presented a draft statement addressing the impact of recent executive orders on behavioral medicine and researchers funded or directly employed by the federal government. Dr. Beckjord asked the Board to share any proposed edits to the content of the statement while considering the potential risks associated with releasing, or not releasing, a statement of this type at the given moment.

Board members suggested more explicitly mentioning SBM's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, as well as contextualizing the statement as a first step among many that SBM might take to advocate for its members and their research. An initial statement to the membership could also serve as an opportunity for collecting responses from members about the ways in which they are or could be directly impacted by the policy changes, with Board members recommending that the statement include a link to a feedback form.

The presidential line will incorporate the proposed revisions and share an updated draft with the full Board via email later in the week.

SBM CORE VALUES

Dr. Beckjord presented a draft list of SBM core values that was developed as a result of ongoing discussions by the presidential line and shared previously with the Executive Committee.

Board members expressed their support of adopting a set of core values generally and the proposed values in the draft list. Building upon the previous discussion around the statement on federal policy changes, Board members suggested expanding the "evidence in action" value to include a commitment to health equity, separate from and complementary to the diversity, equity, and inclusion core value.

The presidential line will revise the list of potential core values and share an updated draft for review and approval by the Board during its March meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Dr. Diefenbach moved to approve the November 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes. Dr. Manne seconded. The motion carried.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m. ET.

Minutes respectfully submitted by A. Schmidt on February 5, 2025.