



**NFI Board Conference Call Minutes
Monday December 16, 2013
FY 2013 – 2014**

Present

J. Alberts, H. Als, V. Bjornson, D. Buehler, N. Conneman, M. Daly, J. Helm, S. Kosta, S. Mader, G. McNulty, K. Vandenberg

In the absence of the President, Dr. Helm opened the meeting at 12:05PM EDT.

Mid-Atlantic NIDCAP Training Center

Dr. Alberts reported to the Board that he communicated with Dr. Lawhon about the loss of her position and the status of the Mid-Atlantic NIDCAP Training Center. He asked whether her institution may rethink the workforce reduction if the training center could provide matching funds to maintain it. Dr. Lawhon indicated to him that she would propose the idea to an authority at the institution. Dr. Alberts made a plea to the Board to activate a fundraising wish list item stating the Mid-Atlantic NIDCAP Training Center reinstatement as a goal. He asked for the Board's support if there was a hint of receptivity on the part of the institution. The Board indicated support and Dr. Vandenberg pointed out the larger issue at hand - the lack of relationship between NIDCAP training centers and their institutions. It raises the questions of what the NFI's role is in such a situation and should the NFI set up a binding agreement with institutions so as to prevent such closures. Dr. Helm asked if there were such agreements with the most recently established centers and Dr. Als replied that there are no such agreements. Dr. Conneman stated that the NFI should strategize how to secure a more solid standing with institutions and he recommended it as a topic for discussion at the mid-year Board meeting. Dr. Buehler suggested the development of a task force to explore these issues. Dr. Helm stated that the Executive Committee will explore the topic and develop a plan.

Dr. Helm brought the discussion back to Dr. Alberts' proposal and asked if the Board wished to move forward with his idea. Dr. Alberts asked for the Board's approval to approach the Johnson and Johnson Foundation if Dr. Lawhon's institution is open to the idea. The Board agreed that if Dr. Lawhon indicates that Dr. Stahl and The Children's Regional Hospital at Cooper University Hospital are interested then the Advancement Committee may pursue the Johnson and Johnson Foundation. Dr. Conneman asked whether the foundation was industrial or philanthropic, to which Dr. Alberts replied that the Johnson and Johnson Foundation is a separate entity from the company.

Dr. Als raised the fact that, as Dr. Lawhon had pointed out to her, the nursery at the Newborn Intensive Care Unit of The Children's Regional Hospital at Cooper University Hospital no longer meets the NNCP criteria since there is no longer a NIDCAP Professional on site. She also indicated that she may write to Dr. Stahl about the value of the nursery certification. She stated that Dr. Lawhon had requested that she do this after the holidays and after more discussion with Dr. Lawhon.

Dr. Conneman reiterated that it is a greater topic that warrants discussion by the Board.

A Closed Session began.

The Board discussed two topics in the closed session:

1) Ms. Inga Warren's letter to the NFI: The Board discussed the topics addressed in the letter. The Board is confident that the production of a monthly newsletters sent by the President will highlight the progress being made by the Board and thus keep the Membership well informed as to the activities being pursued. It was decided that a reply will be sent to Ms. Warren by Dr. Lawhon with the support of the entire Board.

2) The prospective Board member's application: The Board reviewed the application and discussed how to proceed. The Board was given more time to review so a vote was not taken at this meeting.

Closed Session ended.

Science Initiative (Identification of Chair)

Dr. Als stated that Dr. Alberts recently agreed to spearhead the Science Initiative so there is no need for discussion.

NFI Endorsement Policy (Purpose and Position in Organizational Structure)

Dr. Als stated that she is becoming increasingly uncomfortable with the process in place. Her sense is that endorsement can be made upon request, but it should not be solicited. The topic of intellectual property infringement remains a separate topic. She would like to divest the Program Committee of endorsement responsibilities that involve solicitation and suggested that it should fall under the Advancement Committee if it retains this goal. The Program Committee will be happy to retain Endorsement under its responsibilities if it is restricted to the option of conferment on request.

Dr. Helm announced that Ms. Daly left the call.

Ms. Mader put her line on hold which resulted in the broadcast of an automated German message. All meeting participants hung up and dialed in again but the automated message was still running. The meeting proceeded with the message running in the background.

Gravens Conference (Exhibit & Representative for Consensus Panel)

Dr. McAnulty reported that the Board must make a decision whether to send a representative to the Gravens meeting to participate in the consensus panel re developmental care guidelines organized by Dr. Browne and also whether to send the NNCP exhibit. The exhibit space fee was waived for the NFI, but there will be additional costs such as shipping and accommodations and meals for the person assigned to be responsible for the maintenance of the booth. Dr. McAnulty explained that Ms. Smith served as the representative on the panel last year and that she secured accommodations with a friend, thus lessening the NFI's financial burden. The same arrangements may not be available to her this year. Dr. Helm asked if anyone knew of others who were going who might be able to represent the NNCP. Dr. Als stated that due to Dr. Browne's investment in the NNCP's representation on the panel it will be important to not only have the representation but that it be someone who is knowledgeable about the NNCP. No Board members had definitive knowledge of who might be attending the meeting.

Dr. Buehler suggested that the NNCP Steering Committee schedule a conference call to discuss and develop a plan. Dr. Helm stated that the NNCP Steering Committee will meet and make a proposal to the Board.

Board Officer Term Limits

Dr. Helm stated that the topic of Board Officer Term limits was placed on the agenda for Board Members to begin thinking about whether term limits for the President and Vice Presidents should be maintained or changed in some way. He reminded the Board that the By-laws were changed a year ago to set the term limits for the President and Vice Presidents to two consecutive one year terms. Dr. McAnulty stated that the Board was inspired by consultants to change the By-laws and that the topic is a very important one, especially since the Board and the NFI are at a transitional stage. It was proposed that the topic be brought to a vote after a more formal discussion. Dr. Als raised the point that the Board members need to hear from the President and Vice Presidents whether they are willing to stand for additional years in office, otherwise it is a moot point. She suggested that the Executive Committee or the three officers affected make a proposal to the Board for discussion. She indicated that at the time of the policy making there were a number of proponents of the limits. Dr. Helm stated that the Executive Committee will discuss how to proceed with this topic.

There being no further business upon motion, duly made, seconded and carried, Dr. Helm adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m. EST on Monday, December 16, 2013.



**Sandra M. Kosta, BA
Secretary
NIDCAP Federation International**