

AAPT Statement on the Dismissal of the National Science Board Members

We are dismayed to learn that all sitting members of the National Science Board (NSB) were dismissed on Friday, April 24, 2026. The NSB members are scientists and other experts who provide advice on the major research priorities for and the strategy of the National Science Foundation (NSF). The collective expertise of the NSB, earned from years of research experience, has historically guided the NSF to prioritize areas that have led to some of the most important scientific discoveries.

We are concerned about the future makeup and independence of the new appointees to the NSB. Appointees to the NSB should not be political appointees who have little knowledge about the research process or projects that could benefit the US scientific enterprise and workforce. We are also concerned about delays in appointing new members to the NSB, which is disruptive and will have a lasting negative impact on scientific discovery. The US cannot lose its position as a global leader in science, especially when other countries' investment in science and technology is surpassing that of the US. As educators, we are particularly concerned about the impact the dismissals could have on NSF's funding to improve science teaching and learning. We therefore urge Congress to protect the future of US scientific discovery by demanding that the new appointees are highly qualified scientists and engineers reflecting the range of expertise needed to guide NSF's research portfolio.

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