

**Board of Directors  
Conference Call  
November 5, 2019**

**Members Present:** Ann Cary, Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Jean Giddens, Judith Karshmer, Jean Leuner, Julie Sanford, Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, Kristen Swanson, Terri Weaver, Lin Zhan

**Staff Present:** Deb Trautman, Jennifer Ahearn, Robert Rosseter, Joan Stanley

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Action/Next Steps</u>
AC	<p>The board was welcomed to the November Board Call and feedback about the October Conference and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration was shared. Everyone agreed it was a great celebration at the Library of Congress.</p>	
AC	<p>The Board members were asked to discuss the appropriate timing for follow-up on the RAND Report, <i>The DNP by 2015: A Study of the Institutional, Political, and Professional Issues that Facilitate or Impede Establishing a Post-Baccalaureate Doctor of Nursing Practice Program</i>. The RAND Report was released in October 2014 and is now five years old. Is it time to conduct and/or collaborate with others to conduct follow-up outcome studies?</p> <p>Several background documents were provided to the Board including a February 2016 memorandum detailing six recommendations from the RAND Report and AACN's activities in response. Staff noted that the NONPF Initiative to transition to the DNP by 2025 has four work groups including one focused on outcomes. In their review of the literature, very little outcome data related to the DNP has been documented.</p> <p>Specifically, the Board looked at Recommendation #1: "AACN should conduct and collaborate with others to conduct outcome studies of DNP practice to better understand the impact of DNP graduates on patient care."</p> <p>The following thoughts/ ideas were shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The DNP is a degree, not a role. Therefore, we need to very thoughtfully determine what we want to evaluate in a follow-up study.</li> <li>• If we want to look at outcomes for individuals with a DNP degree, we must consider that graduates are working in</li> </ul>	

	<p>a variety of positions. Would it be more helpful to look at outcomes in terms of clinical and non-clinical DNP roles?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested that we consider looking at the extent to which the DNP Essentials are being utilized by program graduates. This approach would focus on outcomes rather than process.</li> <li>• Do we need to ask, “What is the added value of a DNP degree?”</li> <li>• Perhaps we should look at the PharmD data to help nursing with analysis of DNP data.</li> <li>• It was suggested that we consider collaborating with another organization such as AONL. Is this a priority for their organization? AACN should take the lead in this work; however, doing this work together might help move the DNP initiative forward and increase the credibility of the findings.</li> <li>• Should we look at PhD outcome data at the same time?</li> <li>• Do we know the number of DNP graduates in practice versus those in education and leadership? Future studies should help determine those numbers.</li> <li>• Does the PhD data that was distributed include both domestic and international students? We should request that those data be separated to provide a better picture of PhD graduates.</li> <li>• CNOs are hiring DNP graduates, how are they being utilized in practice?</li> </ul> <p>Lin Zhan, Treasurer, reminded the Board that we have approved \$2.2M in special projects. The first RAND project cost approximately \$230,000. More information is needed before determining what this study will cost.</p> <p>It was determined that we need more dialogue regarding what we want to study with regard to a DNP follow-up. Using a third party to do the study was a central feature of the previous work, and we would want to do the same thing going forward. The Board agreed to continue this discussion at the January Board Meeting in Florida.</p> <p>A suggestion was raised as to whether we could plan to engage in this dialogue as part of the Doctoral Conference. Julie Sanford noted that the conference schedule is very full but will raise to the Doctoral Conference Program Subcommittee and staff. It was also suggested that we plan focus group sessions at</p>	<p>The Board asked Deb Trautman to reach out to RAND for their thoughts on a follow-up report and a rough estimate of the cost. Deb will share this information at the January Board Meeting.</p> <p>Julie Sanford will explore the idea of continuing this discussion as a session at the January 2020 Doctoral Conference.</p>
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	<p>the Doctoral Conference as an alternative to putting a new session on the program.</p> <p>The Board identified the need to engage in a conceptual conversation about the best ways to keep track of our various major reports and their recommendations so that we address the need for follow-up reports in a timely manner.</p>	
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Respectfully Submitted:



Jean Leuner, PhD, RN, FAAN  
AACN Board Secretary