



**American Association
of Colleges of Nursing**

January 2020

To: Board of Directors

From: Governance Committee: Susan Bakewell-Sachs, Kristen Swanson, Lepaine Sharp-McHenry, Deb Trautman

The Governance Committee met via conference call in December 2019. Several topics were discussed.

Plan for Board Development Session during January 2020 Board Meeting

The Governance Committee discussed the plan for the January Board development session and supported the session proposed on change management and the Board's role in leading through the transition to the new Essentials. This session will be facilitated by Josh Mintz.

Board Orientation for Incoming Board Members

The Governance Committee discussed the current board orientation process and opportunities to improve. A recommendation was made to develop a one pager on the timing, expectations and structure of the 4 board meetings, and how the board agenda and consent agenda are developed and used. In addition to the logistics orientation call with staff and lunch/orientation meeting in March, additional information can be provided via a follow-up phone call from the Board Chair and/or President/CEO about the strategic priorities of the association. A buddy system was also suggested. The Governance Committee did not think an extended in person orientation session is needed at this time.

Conflict of Interest Discussion

The Governance Committee had a discussion about conflict of interest. It was noted many leaders are being asked to participate in leadership roles for other nursing association groups. The Governance Committee agreed there does not need to be any change in process, only that the duty of loyalty be emphasized during the orientation session with primary loyalty being for AACN while serving on the Board.

Other

The Governance Committee discussed the new Foundation initiative and ideas for composition of the Foundation Advisory Committee. A reminder was provided that this will operate as an internal division and the advisory committee will have no governance responsibility. The Governance Committee discussed a 5-7 person committee including a member dean, 3-4 external members, and that the Board Chair or Chair-Elect will serve as the board liaison to the committee. Regular written reports will be made to the Board similar to AACN's other advisory committees.