



FASEB

Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

Representing Over 100,000 Researchers

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FASEB STATEMENT ON TERMINATION OF ENTIRE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOARD

April 30, 2026

FASEB is deeply disturbed by the dismissal of the entire current National Science Board (NSB) on April 24, 2026, less than two weeks before it was scheduled to meet on May 5. These dismissals risk further destabilization of the National Science Foundation (NSF), an agency that has already lost most of its external advisory committee support and updated internal processes to accommodate a 50 percent reduction in force over the past year. The dismantling of the NSB is another significant blow to an already beleaguered agency, which has faced decreased funding for fiscal year (FY) 2026, proposed further significant decreases in funding for FY 2027, delays in release of funding from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as well as major delays in restoring critical functions following last year's historic 43-day government shutdown.

The NSF has been without a permanent director for a year. In the absence of appointed leadership, the role of the NSB to establish agency policies and advise Congress and the President on issues pertaining to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is even more critical. Dismissal of the entire NSB is the latest example of the Administration's elimination of critical external advisory committees within the Nation's science agencies. Additionally, although the administration indicated its intent to nominate Jim O'Neill to this position, little is known about the status of this critical nomination which was [transmitted](#) to the Senate on March 2.

The NSB was mandated by Congress through the National Science Act of 1950. FASEB encourages Congress to fulfill its oversight duties by holding the administration accountable for adhering to the intent of the law and ensuring that there is a fully functional NSB to fulfill its statutory functions, including approval of NSF's strategic budget directions and new major programs and awards. FASEB also urges the administration to nominate new NSB members as soon as possible and we implore the administration to consult with stakeholders prior to appointing new NSB members to ensure that the board remains free of political interference. Without swift action, the position of the U.S. as a leader in science and technology is threatened.