

SOCIETY FOR PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

San Francisco, California

March 16-17, 2003

Members Present: Barton Evans, Stephen Finn, Constance Fischer, Leonard Handler, Radhika Krishnamurthy, Martin Leichtman, David Nichols, and Bruce Smith.

Ex Officio Members: Phillip Caracena (Web Coordinator), Lawrence Erlbaum (Journal Publisher), Gregory Meyer (Journal Editor)

Present Central Office: Paula Garber (Operations Manager), Bill Haire (Conference and Travel Consultant)

MINUTES

I. Minutes of Prior Meeting

The minutes of the Board Meeting of October 4-6, 2002 were approved (M/S, BE/BS). A decision about whether to publish the minutes in the *SPA Exchange* or *JPA* was deferred until the Fall Board Meeting.

II. Publications

A. Journal (Meyer)

There has been a modest increase in the number of manuscripts submitted this year. The addition of action editors has decreased the time required to process submissions and improved the quality of feedback on them. In June 2003, Steven Reise will take over for Geoff Norman as one of the action editors for Statistical Developments and Applications. JPA will adopt the Standards for Reporting Diagnostic Accuracy, a biomedical initiative to reduce bias in studies examining test performance relative to gold standard criteria. There has been an excellent response to the new journal format which includes sections on statistics and applications, clinical case applications, and book, software, and test reviews. Special topics for future issues will include an autobiography series, a special issue on Personality and Assessment and Psychotherapy coordinated by Mark Hilsenroth, and a monograph of international reference samples for the Rorschach Comprehensive System coordinated by Tom Shaffer and Phil Erdberg. The JPA web page is now running and contains information about JPA, online access to full text since 2000, and downloadable resources for authors and reviewers, guides for reporting statistical findings, and clinical studies and templates for presenting MMPI-2/A profiles and Rorschach CS structural summary information. A new procedure has been adopted for the Walter Klopfer and Mayman awards

that involves selection of candidates for the award by committee of 12 members of the Consulting Editor Board and rating of the leading candidates by the Associate Editors and Editor.

B. Publisher's Report (Erlbaum)

There is a modest projected increase in revenues from JPA for next year, although institutional subscriptions to journals such as SPA have been dropping and libraries have experienced budgetary problems. A subscription service handling the journal has gone bankrupt, but LEA will honor subscriptions paid to the service.

C. The Newsletter (Yalof)

There has been a smooth transition to the new editor. New procedures instituted with LEA have led to faster production of the Newsletter. Pam Abraham has been appointed an Associate editor of the SPA Exchange.

III. Website (Caracena)

The Board noted that the website has been dramatically improved and provided an excellent presentation of the program for the annual meeting. Also the Utility of Assessment RFP will be placed on the site. Note was taken of problems with the host server, which cannot handle the expanded requirements of the website such as registration for conferences. Means of upgrading the website will be discussed at the Fall Board Meeting.

IV. Advocacy

A. The Advocacy Coordinator Position

The Board approved the recommendation of an Advocacy Coordinator who will serve a three year term as a non-paid Board Member (M/S, BE/RK). It appointed Bruce Smith to the position (M/S, ML/LH). The chief functions of the Coordinator will be to encourage and supervise a broad range of advocacy efforts by SPA members.

B. The Competencies Conference

Radhika Krishnamurthy reported on her participation as SPA representative to The Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Center's Conference on Identification and Credentialing of Core Areas of Competency in Clinical Psychology. She noted that the conference recognized assessment as one of the essential areas of competence and she was able to introduce SPA training guidelines, the PAWG reports, and the Meyer, et al. *American Psychologist* article into the deliberations of the group.

C. APA Committee on Psychological Tests and Assessment

Leonard Handler reported that the Committee is sympathetic to the need for better training in evaluation and will recommend a session at the next APA Annual Meeting on problems in the teaching of assessment in universities. He will revolve off the Committee this year. The value of

encouraging the activity of SPA members within APA was noted. In addition note was taken of the establishment of a Division 12 section on Assessment. SPA members who wish to join do not need to be members of Division 12.

D. Assessment Brochure

Work on a brochure for the public describing personality assessment is nearing completion.

E. Textbooks

The Board discussed ways of responding to textbooks that offer one-sided or inaccurate views of assessment.

F. CPT Codes

Bruce Smith discussed efforts to coordinate revisions of CPT Codes for assessment with APA.

G. HIPPA

Concerns were expressed that APA's revision to the ethics code to accommodate to HIPPA does not afford sufficient protection for the treatment of raw data from psychological assessments. Ways of informally supporting legal challenges to the law by other groups and individuals were discussed.

V. Midwinter Meeting

The Board approved holding the next annual meeting in Miami, Florida from March 10-14, 2004 (M/S. BS/LH). At the Fall Board meeting consideration will be given to increasing CE credits offered at the annual meeting.

Current registration for this year's annual meeting is 375, but is expected to go higher with on-site registrations at the start of the meeting. Workshop registration is higher than last year. The new brochure appears to have contributed to the increase. In addition there has been some success in interesting advertisers in the brochure to help offset the costs of the meeting. Income for the meeting is already well above last year and it is anticipated that the meeting will come close to breaking even, substantially reducing the deficit from last year. Paula Garber and Bill Hare will seek to interest exhibitors at the APA meeting this year in participating in the next SPA Annual Meeting. The Central Office will explore costs of getting a power point projector for the next meeting.

V. Awards (Nichols)

Alex Caldwell was the recipient of the Bruno Klopfer Award; John L. McNulty received the Beck Award; The Cerney Award was given to Peter Heinze; Raymond B. Cattell was honored with the Marguerite R. Hertz Memorial Award; The Mayman Award was given for papers by Robert Bornstein and Mary Jo Peebles-Kleiger; and Linda S. Grossman, Orest Wasyliw, Andrea Benn, and Kevin Byoerkoe received the Walter Klopfer Award for the Outstanding Statistical Research Article. The decision-making process has been improved,

although minor problems remained with the Cerney Award. The Board approved rewording the award to clarify that its recipient will receive a waiver of registration and up to \$300 to cover transportation and one night of lodging (M./S/, LH/BE).

VI. Student Grants and Activities

The Society provided travel grants for 42 students to attend the Annual Meeting this year. A luncheon with Reid Meloy has been arranged for them. In addition, three dissertation grants have been awarded this year.

VII. Membership

A. Current Status (Leichtman)

As the Central Office is reorganized, it is becoming possible to get a more accurate count of membership that will take into account members who have dropped out by not paying dues. This may result in a decrease in membership in the United States. International membership continues to grow. Priorities for the next six months include revising the membership brochure, continuing to encourage international membership, arranging a luncheon meeting with Board members for international members, and exploring the possibility of submitting membership forms on-line as the website is developed. A new SPA Membership Directory is nearing completion and should be mailed in the summer.

B. Fellows (Smith)

J. Christopher Fowler, Tamara Dzamonja Injatovic, and Sharon Nathan were elected Fellows (M/S, BS/ML).

VIII. Finances (Fischer)

A new format is being introduced to improve accounting procedures. The economic shortfall last year has been addressed through the dues increase and improved revenues and decreased costs for the Annual Meeting. The Board approved refinancing the mortgage on the Central Office through LEA at extremely generous rates (M/S, LH/BE).

IX. Central Office

There has been a marked improvement in the functioning of the Central Office since the appointment of Paula Garber as Operations Manager. Longstanding problems in processing dues, clarifying membership numbers, and the organization of the office are being addressed. There has also been a dramatic improvement in the brochure for the annual meeting. Priorities for the coming year include addressing problems around payments of dues, updating the accounting system, reorganizing the filing system, and obtaining a DSL line in order to make on-line registration for the annual meeting and membership applications and renewals possible.

X. Elections

The Board discussed potential candidates for the two positions that will be open during the coming year, the President-Elect and the Member-at-Large position being vacated by Bruce Smith as he assumes the Advocacy Coordinator position.

- XI. The Meyer-Handler Project
The Board received a final report on the meta-analysis of literature on the predictive validity of personality tests. Note was taken of major publications that resulted from the project and the contributions to Psychological Assessment Work Group project.
- XII. The SPA Foundation
The Board is currently obtaining legal consultation around incorporating an SPA Foundation to allow members to make tax deductible contributions for the advancement of personality assessment. Note was taken of the changes that need to be made in SPA by-laws, ways of establishing the Foundation Board, and IRS filing requirements.
- XIII. Training Guidelines
A subcommittee consisting of Radhika Krishnamurthy, Leonard Handler, and Constance Fischer will develop a proposal for revised assessment training guidelines that will be discussed at the Fall Board meeting.
- XIV. Future Board Meetings
The next Board Meeting is scheduled for September 12-14, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m., March 17, 2003..

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Leichtman

SOCIETY FOR PERSONALITY ASSESSMENT
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Washington, D. C.

September 12-14, 2003

Members Present: Anna Maria Carlsson, Barton Evans, Stephen Finn, Constance Fischer, Leonard Handler, Radhika Krishnamurthy, Martin Leichtman, David Nichols, and Irving Weiner.

Ex Officio Members: Phillip Caracena (Web Coordinator), Lawrence Erlbaum (Journal Publisher), Gregory Meyer (Journal Editor), Bruce Smith (Assessment Advocacy Coordinator), and Jed Yalof (SPA Exchange)

Present Central Office: Paula Garber (Operations Manager), Duff Scudder (CPA), Bill Haire (Conference and Travel Consultant, Suzanne McDowell (Attorney)

MINUTES

- I. Minutes of Prior Meeting
The minutes of the Board Meeting of Mark 16-17, 2003 were approved (M/S, CF/BE). The Board voted to publish the minutes in the *SPA Exchange* rather than *JPA* in the future subject to approval by the membership (M/S, SF/ML).
- II. Financial Report (Scudder)
The Board received the financial report. The mid-winter meeting was successful economically and the organization made a profit last year. To improve financial planning, an accrual basis of accounting has been adopted.
- III. Publications
 - A. Journal (Meyer)
Manuscript submissions continue to be somewhat higher this year. The editorial office has moved from Anchorage Alaska to Toledo, Ohio. James Hoelze has been appointed the new editorial assistant. There will be a modest increase in the stipend for the position. The Board approved an increase in the *JPA* budget (M/S, SF, CF).
 - B. Publisher's Report (Erlbaum)

Because libraries are economizing on subscriptions to professional print journals there has been some decrease in institutional subscriptions to *JPA*. However, there are more electronic subscriptions. Revenues losses from subscriptions have been offset by decreased expenses as a result of technological improvements. Increasingly psychologists are buying separate articles rather than journals.

C. The Newsletter (Yalof)

The Minutes of Board Meetings will be published in the *SPA Exchange* after a by-law change is approved by the membership. Plans for publishing clinical cases and updates on test instruments were also discussed. Authors of articles will be able to edit them through PDF files prior to publication.

D. Autobiographical Volume

After consultation with the publisher, the Board decided that SPA will not seek to publish a volume of autobiographical essays from *JPA*. They have given permission for Bill Kinder to do so independently.

IV. Central Office

Ms. Garber described technological upgrades to the computer system that will facilitate communication with the central office, payment of dues, and registration for the Winter Meeting on-line. A new data base on membership is being established. The board approved raises for Central Office personnel.

V. Membership

A. Current Status (Leichtman)

Changes in the Central Office have made it possible to obtain more accurate membership totals. The Society currently has 2054 members. To increase membership, a new brochure has been developed and journal ads and email lists will be traded with other groups. Attention will be given to building alliances with organizations with related interests including those representing school psychologists, forensic psychologists, industrial psychologists, and neuropsychologists. To streamline the application procedure the Board voted to submit to the membership a by-laws change eliminating the need for a sponsor (M/S, SF/DN).

B. Fellows (Carlsson)

Sharon Rae Jenkins, Hedwig Teglasi, and Jed Yalof were elected Fellows (M/S, AC/ML).

C. International Members

Ways of making the annual meeting more congenial for overseas members were discussed. These included ways of familiarizing international members with the content of the conference, encouraging presentations and symposia from them, and facilitating contact with them in informal settings.

VI. Elections

Irving Weiner was elected the next SPA president. In 2004, elections will be held for Secretary, Treasurer, and two At-Large Representatives. Potential candidates were discussed.

VI. The SPA Foundation

Ms. Suzanne McDowell, the attorney handling the establishment of the SPA Foundation, discussed the rules governing 501(c) (3) organizations that protect their tax exempt status. Although members of the SPA Board will serve as officers of the Foundation, organizations will be separate and have their own boards, minutes, and corporate records. The Foundation will be able to accept tax-exempt contributions for purposes such as research, student grants, awards, and publications, but cannot engage in lobbying or advocacy activities. The Foundation should be established in the next few months. The costs of legal services were also discussed.

VII. MID-WINTER MEETING

A. The 2003 mid-winter was reviewed. Evaluations indicated that workshops, symposia, and Master Lectures were well received and the Society made a profit. Member's recommendation for future meetings included an increase in events for which continuing education credits are offered and more time for poster sessions.

B. 2004 Meeting

The Board approved moving to 6 concurrent sessions at the meeting if necessary and offering as many as 15 symposia for CE credit (M/S, BE, RK). Workshop topics and presenters and candidates for master lectures, awards, and the student lunch were discussed. Pre-deadline registration fees for the conference as a whole will be \$160 for members, \$225 for non members and \$50 for students. Post-deadline fees will be \$210, \$275, and \$65 respectively. One day registrations will be \$80, \$110, and \$25 respectively. Fees for full day workshops will be \$140 for members, \$195 for non-members and non-conference registrants, and \$75 for students. 40 % of fees for workshops will go to presenters. (M/S, BE, CF). Marketing the Meeting to target groups, advertising, sponsorship of events, and exhibits were also discussed. Anna Maria Carlsson and Leonard Handler will take responsibility for gathering information on ways of increasing the involvement of international members at the Meeting and addressing their needs. Possible sites for the 2005 meeting also were reviewed.

VIII. Dissertation Grants (Krishnamurthy)

Three grants were funded for the coming year. The deadline for grants for next year will be October 15, 2004.

IX. Advocacy (Smith)

A. Assessment Flyer Project

David Nichols will assume responsibility for completion of the flyer. Bruce Smith and Gregory Meyer will serve on the committee with him.

B. HIPAA White Paper

The February issue of *JPA* will include papers on problems around the protection of raw test data. Bruce Smith will meet with the APA Practice and Science Directorates to discuss development of a white paper on the issue.

C. APA

Stress was placed on the need to work with APA to address issues of common concern and to increase attention given to assessment within the organization. Efforts will be made to develop links from the APA website to the SPA website, become more involved with the APA Committee on Psychological Tests and Assessment, share concerns about training and educational standards around assessment, increase SPA members representation in Division 12 activities, and address problems around overly narrow definitions of evidence based treatment that neglects clinical and patient experience. Work on revision of CPT codes to define assessment as a professional activity is progressing. SPA has assisted in obtaining subjects for a survey of practitioners and there has been a high rate of return on questionnaires.

D. Rorschach Validity

After discussing the whether to address attacks on the validity of the Rorschach through a White Paper, the Board concluded the matter is best addressed in scientific forums. However, approval was given to the development of a paper on what constitutes competent practice with the instrument and on its scientific validity (M/S, BE/CF). Bruce Smith and Barton Evans will develop a draft of the paper.

E. Survey of Members

Bruce Smith will contact the membership to collect data on problems with HIPAA, forensic issues, problems with third-party payers, and other issues related to advocacy.

X. Guidelines

Constance Fischer will complete a draft of proposed Guidelines for Report Writing and Radhika Krishnamurthy will update a draft of Guidelines for Training in Assessment for Board Meeting.

XI. Finance (Fischer)

Although the organization made a profit last year, a conservative budget that includes raises for central office staff was recommended. An increase of \$6000 for student travel grants was approved (M/S, SF/CF). The Finance Committee

will review investment allocations quarterly. The Budget was approved as amended (M/S, BS, SF).

XI. Website (Caracena)

The website will be shifted to a new host that will permit upgrades. It is being redesigned to include SPA news and resources for members such as information about training and report writing guidelines. It will also permit downloading of brochures explaining psychological tests for clients when these are available. Ways of using the website for marketing by making it more visible on search engines and linking it to other sites were discussed. The latter include sites of public service and professional organizations as well as commercial organizations and other sites approved by the Website Committee.

XII. International Rorschach Society (Weiner)

Irving Weiner provided an update on current IRS issues, the growing international interest in the Rorschach, and ways of attracting SPA membership through the organization. Leonard Handler, Barton Evans, and Constance Fischer will be SPA delegates to the IRS. Its summer seminar will be held in August in Stockholm and integrated with the meeting of the European Rorschach Association. The International Conference will be held in Barcelona in 2005. The Board will also promote meetings devoted to the MMPI, the Millon, and other recognized assessment instruments upon request.

XIII. Board Committees

Committee assignments were reviewed and a number of changes in committees were made. The CPT Code Revision, the SPA Foundation Interface, and the Midwinter Meeting Committees were eliminated. Functions of the Marketing Committee will be handled through the central office. The Membership, Fellows, and Student Matters Committees will be combined. The Publication Review Committee will make recommendations on evaluation procedures at the next Board Meeting. All committees may be enlarged at the discretion of their chairs to include non-Board members.

XIV. Future Board Meetings

The next Board Meeting will be held at the Midwinter Meeting. The Fall Retreat is scheduled for September 10-12, 2004.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m. on September 14, 2003..

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Leichtman