

**Society for Personality Assessment – Graduate Student (SPAGS) Section
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 21, 2013
The Gaslamp Quarter Westin Hotel
San Diego, CA**

PRESENT:

Members: Katherine Thomas, Michael Roche, David Marino, Christy Denckla, Ashley Gunterman, Joshua Eblin (via phone), Stacey Boyer (via phone)

Absent: None

Substitutes: None

1. Explanation of agenda – Katherine
 - A. All in attendance agreed to the set agenda.
2. Discussion of SPAGS developments over the past year
 - A. SPAGS social
 - i. Budget for SPAGS social approximately \$500 this year.
 - ii. Dr. Yosi Ben-Porath distinguished guest.
 - B. Travel Grant Success
 - a. 59 students applied and 59 students received at least \$200
 - C. Student membership
 - i. Continues to baseline - 116 student affiliates as of 3/21/2013
 - a. Between a third and a half of student members come to the conference
 - D. Student-focused symposium
 - a. SPAGS symposium (2) - both to be recorded and put onto YouTube
 - i. Developing your own assessment practice – Roundtable
 - ii. Current topics on personality assessment and diversity
3. Installation of new SPAGS Board

Michael Roche	PRESIDENT - ELECT
Christy Denckla	PRESIDENT
Katherine Thomas	PAST PRESIDENT
Stacey Boyer	MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Ashley Gunterman	MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Joshua Eblin	MEMBER-AT-LARGE
David Marino	SECRETARY

4. Committee reports
 - A. Technology Committee
 - i. Add a link to SPAGS website for FB page
 - ii. Announce FB and Google group during our student symposium this year
 - a. SPAGS members should be involved in Google group
 - b. Technology committee agenda: Get SPAGS members names and email addresses to sign them up for Google group
 - iii. Add student poster winners to the SPAGS website

- a. In conjunction with Dr. Joni Mihura
- iv. David will serve as Chair if the Technology Committee.
- B. Social Committee
 - i. Ashley will serve as Chair of the Social Committee.
 - ii. This year Dr. Ben-Porath made contact during the September meeting
 - iii. Good turnout last year – 60 -70 people for SPAGS social
 - iv. Suggestion for future social committee member: Christy called catering manager to coordinate this social, then she talked about number of guests, and budget. It is important to ask for own space and to also pre-order off of the menu. Also try and keep an informal account by having a sign in sheet with name, email, and affiliated University.
 - v. Ashley will organize the student social for next year.
- C. Education Committee
 - i. Michael and Joshua will serve as Co-Chairs of the Education Committee.
 - ii. Planning this year *Opening Your Own Assessment Practice*.
 - a. CE credits worked well this year to draw practicing clinicians as well as students. The professionals' questions and understanding really enhanced the Q and A part
 - b. It is recommended that we do this on other SPAGS panels as well.
 - iii. SPA board is very pleased with conference presentations and getting these together.
 - iv. The SPAGS Board agrees that a potential topic for the 2014 student-focused symposium might involve:
 - a. Starting an assessment research career: How-to; Any considerations to market training in assessment
 - i. How to do a good job talk
 - ii. How to get an academic job when you graduate; Different kinds of research careers; important to use younger academics; Target Aidan Wright for job talks; Year 1-5 – Chris Hopwood or Mark Lukowitsky: assistant clinic director position, could consider Doug Samuel as well for early career person.
 - iii. Other career options that involve personality assessment research (e.g., in academic medical centers)
 - b. Basic workshop for students in the PAI, Rorschach, MMPI-2, FFM, TAT, IPC, MCMI etc
 - i. Support introduction/presentation for assessment tools to use as a launching pad.
 - 1. Have to be early in the conference; not a workshop but rather a panel; Find the right people to introduce assessment tools
 - 2. We could video the panel and use it as a basic intro to the measures in future years (so we wouldn't have to repeat the panel each year).
 - 3. We could have senior level grad students (perhaps some of us) present on each of these measures.

4. We'll need to decide which measures to cover, and in what amount of detail.
 5. The purpose of this will be to provide student members with a foundation for better understanding various assessment tools and thus better understanding conference talks that use these assessment tools.
- v. Dr. Blais sees SPAGS being integral part of proficiency process
 - a. First part is flyer
 - b. Next, some type of brief article
 - i. Maybe disseminate via Google groups

D. Diversity Committee

- i. Christy will serve as Chair of the Diversity Committee
- ii. Symposium for 2014 (mentioned above)
- iii. Diversity grants: 11 applied; 6 students; 2 received student grants; Very pleased with the eleven; Board decided to double this funding
- iv. Stacey will assist with Diversity Committee tasks as needed.

E. Mentorship Committee

- i. Stacey will serve as Chair of the Membership Committee.
- ii. As Josh proposed in 2012, students would ideally be matched with either a research or clinical mentor who specializes in an area of interest for the student that the student is otherwise unable to obtain training.
- iii. Develop a SPAGS logo
- iv. Keeping the mentorship program alive from year to year is an issue
 - a. If we formalize it as a committee then it would make it a bit easier
- v. Stacey will make an announcement about mentorship program during poster session
- vi. Section 12 has membership committee; no student mentorship matches; time availability is a problem; unforeseen barriers; Christy is thinking about a peer-mentorship program; even a post doc or senior student
 - a. It's not clear that we need both research and clinical parts
 - b. Maybe we could keep brainstorming about sending emails to potential mentors
 - c. Helping to start to make a proposal plan; advantages/disadvantages;
 - i. What sorts of tasks would be involved both mentor/mentee
 - d. Maybe explore with peer writing/journal group to review an important articles or co-write
 - i. Feedback session; writing is a collaborative shared process; could be a wing for academic writing process; could be very helpful
 - e. Survey to go out when school starts (Needs assessment survey goes out in the fall)
- vii. Stacey will prepare a membership needs assessment to be e-mailed to student members annually to solicit feedback about membership, programs, etc. Ideally, this will promote attendance among SPAGS members who do not routinely attend the conference. Additionally, it may help determine why student members do not continue their membership after graduation.

- F. Election Committee
 - G. Katherine will serve as Chair of the Election Committee.
 - G. How to increase voting for SPAGS election?
 - a. All members who were previously re-elected were elected again
 - b. If we could get announcements out repeatedly, that could help; weekly email reminders
 - G. Addition of Newsletter Committee
 - i. The SPAGS Board agrees that a Newsletter Committee should be added.
 - ii. Katherine will serve as Chair of the Newsletter Committee.
 - iii. The newsletter need not be distributed in hard-copy format. The Newsletter Committee Chair might simply post material on the SPAGS website. Additionally, the Newsletter Committee Chair may submit material to be printed in the SPA Exchange. In each instance, the goal is to generate more awareness of SPAGS activities.
 - iv. The SPAGS Board contemplated the use of an online discussion board. However, confidentiality is an issue and moderating the content of member posts would be time consuming. This discussion was inconclusive.
 - H. Campus representative program
 - i. Christy has written a proposal for a SPAGS campus representative program and will circulate to SPAGS Board members for review prior to the September meeting. The campus representative would be responsible for communicating with students in their respective training programs about SPA and SPAGS events.
 - ii. Christy has made contact with APA Division 12 and learned how they initiated their program.
 - iii. Christy will outline a plan to be reviewed by SPA Board at the September meeting.
 - iv. This program will also aim to increase involvement from undergraduates.
6. Plans for meeting next year
- A. SPA will be in Arlington, VA (basically DC).
 - B. Lunch is a better meeting time than breakfast
 - C. Kate wishes she would have given an earlier warning to SPAGS board members about the lunch meeting to ensure that all members could arrive in time. In the future the meeting time can be announced as soon as it is agreed upon by current board members.

7. The meeting was adjourned on March 21, 2013, at 1:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David