

**Society for Personality Assessment – Graduate Student (SPAGS) section
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 28, 2008
Marriot New Orleans at the Convention Center
New Orleans, LA**

PRESENT:

Members: Martin Sellbom, Christopher Hopwood, Elise Simonds, Elizabeth Koonce, Joyce Williams

Absent: Robert Janner, Mark Peacock

Substitutes: Carlo Veltri (for Robert Janner), Sara Lowmaster (for Mark Peacock)

1. The inaugural SPAGS Board of Trustees meeting was officially called to session on March 28, 2008, at 11:55 am.
2. Welcome and Introduction by Martin Sellbom
3. Review of relevant SPA Board meeting issues by Martin Sellbom
 - a. Argued for SPAGS president voting rights on SPA board, SPA Board member were receptive and will discuss at Fall meeting
 - b. Argued that SPAGS president should be the student representative on the SPA Student Matters Committee, Bob Bornstein, the chair of that committee, as well as the other SPA Board members were receptive
 - c. SPA Membership Committee noted that there was a general retention problem and appreciate SPAGS involvement in seeking solution to this problem
 - d. Discussed importance of having a listerv, which is on the agenda for SPA as well as SPAGS, and possibility of having one for each through same system. Steven Toepfer, SPA Web Coordinator, is working on this possibility.
 - e. Robert Erard, SPA President-elect, encouraged papers by students. Joyce Williams noted that it may be helpful for SPA to give feedback to students regarding rejected paper proposals.
4. Determined that Chris Hopwood be secretary for the meeting
5. Discussion of how to increase membership in SPAGS committees
 - a. Martin Sellbom and Elise Simonds discussed importance of announcing this at the SPAGS general meeting on Saturday, March 29, 7-8 PM
 - b. Chris Hopwood suggested a flyer in regular SPA mailings to members
 - c. Carlo Veltri asked about membership, Martin reported there are 178 members. Carlo suggested mass email to members, many of whom may not be at the conference meeting. Paula Garber has an email list.
 - d. Chris suggested that, if these methods are not sufficient, a mass email to clinical programs may be used.

- e. Joyce Williams suggested recruiting through APA Div 12, Sec 9. Martin will be on their board in 2009 and volunteered to do this.
6. General discussion of need to enhance SPAGS portion of website. Martin Sellbom reported that the SPA Board members were open to and interested in this.
7. Research Committee goals (Chris Hopwood, Chair)
 - a. Put graduate student publications relevant to personality assessment
 - b. Survey graduate program and internship productivity in assessment research. This may result in a publishable paper.
 - c. Find funding outlets and post them on SPAGS website. Also examples of successful applications.
 - d. Consider student paper session at SPA to encourage more student papers.
8. Education committee goals (Carlo Veltri, Chair)
 - a. Establish a database of internships and post-docs with strong assessment training.
 - b. Dissemination of other training opportunities, perhaps through website.
 - c. Joyce Williams noted possible interest among SPAGS members of having internship directors discuss how to apply etc. at student lunch or other SPA event.
9. Elections committee goals (Rob Janner, Chair, Carlo Veltri, alternate)
 - a. Martin Sellbom discussed whether this committee needed members given limited responsibilities.
 - b. Joyce Williams discussed problem of limited voting participation. Carlo reported that 35-40 voted in the first election, but that numbers have been increasing. It was also noted that the listserv should help with this.
 - c. Sara Lowmaster discussed possibility of using survey technology for voting. It was noted that Rob Janner previously had concerns about privacy. Elise Simonds made the point that people may be more inclined to vote electronically. Martin noted that this committee should explore viability of alternative voting methods. Sara was nominated to be a member of the committee by Martin, and accepted.
 - d. Carlo noted that the chair of this committee should be responsible for monitoring and updating bylaws, members unanimously agreed.
10. Programming committee goals (Elise Simonds, Chair)
 - a. Identify areas of practice/research students would like to see covered at lunch, workshop.
 - b. Communicate findings to SPAGS president, who can relay to Student Matters Committee.
 - c. Host annual student gathering. Carlo Veltri noted that we may get funding from publishing companies.
 - d. Plan and coordinate the SPAGS general meeting.
 - e. Work with Research Enhancement Committee to plan student paper session.
11. Joyce Williams inquired about faculty sponsorship. Martin reported that SPA Board had decided this was no longer necessary because SPAGS was fully operational.

12. Social Responsibility committee goals (Elizabeth Koonce, Chair)
 - a. SPA board suggested problem of test security should be examined. Elizabeth said she would contact test publishers to inquire about prevalence of this problem in general and for specific instruments and their strategies for addressing it. Carlo Veltri noted this would be a good SPA paper.
13. SPAGS listserv
 - a. Elizabeth Koonce noted this is easy to do. Elise Simonds mentioned that APAGS does not do this for concerns about liabilities. Steven Toepfer is currently exploring options for the SPAGS and SPA listserv.
14. SPA exchange – Martin Sellbom invited suggestions for his “State of SPAGS” article. These suggestions will be sent via email.
15. Plan general meeting.
 - a. Martin Sellbom will introduce
 - b. Committee chairs will discuss goals
 - c. Elise Simonds will distribute sign up sheets
 - d. Joyce Williams will post notice on bulletin board
 - e. Floor will be opened for student discussion
16. The meeting was adjourned on March 28, 2008, at 1:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Hopwood