

**Society for Personality Assessment – Graduate Student (SPAGS) Section
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 5, 2015
The Marriott at Brooklyn Bridge Hotel
Brooklyn, NY**

PRESENT:

Members: Michael Roche, Ryan Marek, Emily Dowgwillo, Trevor Williams, Jaime Anderson, and David Marino

Absent: None

Substitutes: None

1. Explanation of agenda – Mike
 - A. All in attendance agreed to the set agenda.

2. Installation of the new SPAGS Board

Ryan Marek	PRESIDENT
Emily Dowgwillo	PRESIDENT-ELECT
Michael Roche	PAST PRESIDENT
Trevor Williams	MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Jaime Anderson	SECRETARY
Adam Crighton	MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Steven Snider	MEMBER-AT-LARGE

2. Discussion of SPAGS developments over the past year

- A. SPAGS Social – John Clarkin is the guest
 - a. Katherine (former Social Chair) planned the social but will not be in attendance
 - b. Budget of \$500 for this event was confirmed
 - c. Mike will handle last minute arrangements at the social and will create a list for students to put their contact information (to ensure that students are on the email list for SPAGS)
 - d. In addition, Mike will announce that we will have another election for the two open member-at-large positions (see below for more details)
- B. SPAGS Student lunch
 - a. Student lunch is set-up and planned for Saturday, March 7th at 12pm
 - b. John Clarkin will be in attendance for the student lunch
- C. SPAGS Educational Programming
 - a. Mike and Emily put together a SPAGS sponsored round table discussion
 - i. “Expert strategies in manuscript writing, publishing, and reviewing articles”
 - ii. This will occur on Saturday, March 7th at 10:30am
 - iii. Roundtable members have been given a list of questions that students have submitted

- iv. SPAGS board members in attendance will also be given a list of important relevant questions to ask in case students in attendance do not have many specific questions for the discussants

D. SPAGS Diversity Lunch

- a. Lunch was organized for March 6 @ 12pm
 - i. Steve Smith, Ph.D. is the sponsored lunch guest
- b. Ryan confirmed with Monica that everything was in place for the lunch (e.g. 15 lunches were prepared, lunch guest was contacted to confirm)

4. Committee reports

A. Technology Committee

- a. The Google group is not working with the “opt-in” system for emails. Many student members of SPA are not receiving important SPAGS emails
 - i. This is believed to be a big reason for the lack of interest in SPAGS board membership and attendance at SPAGS events
 - ii. Students will now automatically be added to the email list and instead of opting-in to receive emails, they will have the option to opt-out if they wish to stop receiving emails from SPAGS
- b. Monica Tune will send an updated list of student members
 - i. Board members should contact Monica for the most updated list before emailing student members
- c. Board members voted to merge this committee with the membership committee

B. Membership Committee

- a. Technology committee was merged with this committee
- b. Chair of the committee will expand the campus representative program
 - i. Contact universities to establish campus representatives
 - ii. Ask campus representatives to reach out to students at their universities to increase SPAGS membership and participation
- c. Alleged falling membership was discussed and clarified
 - i. Numbers were recorded wrong after last year’s meeting and there was not falling membership
- d. Ryan will be the chair of this committee

C. Social Committee

- a. Social chair will design an insert to be put in the grad packs at the annual meeting to increase attendance at social events
- b. Mentorship committee was merged as part of the social committee
 - i. There is interest in starting a mentorship program where students will have opportunities to meet other researchers with whom they are interested in working
 - ii. The board decided this should be more of a networking opportunity (rather than an ongoing mentorship matching program—it is believed this will increase participation from the mentors and overall interest from both faculty and students)

- iii. We will plan a meet and greet breakfast in 2016 where students can identify individuals they would like to meet (e.g. network with, propose research collaborations, etc.) and SPAGS will facilitate these opportunities (when possible)
 - 1. Jaime will request funds from SPA to host this event
 - c. Jaime will serve as the new Chair of the Social Committee
- D. Education Committee
 - a. 2015 education panel was for writing and reviewing manuscripts
 - b. Education panels will continue in future meetings
 - c. Discussion about having two panels—one for new graduate students and one for more advanced graduate students in order to meet the needs and interests of graduate students at every level
 - d. Ideas for panels next year
 - i. Round table on statistics
 - 1. However, instead of making it just about statistical methods, making it a symposium with one common research theme but utilizing and explaining the use of different statistical methods in personality assessment research
 - ii. Grant writing and funding for students
 - 1. Having a roundtable discussion on grant-writing and ways to obtain research funding as a graduate student researcher
 - 2. J.D. Smith was named as someone who may be a good person to contact for this event
 - e. Chair for education committee: Emily
- E. Diversity Committee
 - a. Diversity lunch will continue at the 2016 meeting
 - i. This event was not well attended at the 2015 meeting (only 3 students were in attendance)
 - ii. Additional advertising is needed. It may be helpful to send an email out to students explaining the diversity lunch in order to increase the amount of participation in this event
 - b. Discussion of a diversity-focused panel during the conference where diversity research can be featured
 - c. Ryan will continue to be the chair of this committee
- F. Election Committee
 - a. Election for the 2015 board was unsuccessful in filling all the open spots
 - b. There remains two open member-at-large positions due to a lack of response election emails
 - i. This is believed to be due to the problem with students receiving emails (reference earlier)
 - c. We will hold a second election for the two open member-at-large positions
 - i. Mike will announce at the SPAGS social that we will be holding another election and will collect names of those interested.
 - ii. In addition, Mike will email an updated list of student members to get names of those interested in running for a position
 - iii. Elections will be held in the weeks following the 2015 SPA meeting

- d. Chair of Election Committee: Mike
- G. Newsletter Committee
 - a. This was discussed in the 2014 meeting. However, this was tabled until 2016 because the board decided it was more important to focus on increasing SPAGS membership and involvement through the email list for the coming year
 - b. This should be revisited at the 2016 meeting

5. Plans for next year; New business

- A. Board attendance and membership
 - a. A board member brought up the issue that both old and new members should attend the board meeting (particularly new members since this is when we assign tasks for next year's meeting)
 - i. We discussed making it a requirement that students on the board will be able to attend the SPAGS board meeting during their year(s) in office
 - 1. Ryan will bring this up at the Fall SPA board meeting for discussion
 - b. There was a discussion about requiring members to be a SPAGS member for at least one year prior to running for a position.
 - i. Ryan will also bring this up at the Fall meeting
- B. Previously proposed new voting system for members at large was discussed
 - a. Previous proposal:
 - i. Potential system that allows members at large to have option to do a second year to increase continuity
 - 1. In other words, existing members at large to have option to renew once
 - 2. 1st year is elected; next year is optional
 - b. An alternative system was proposed:
 - i. 2x2 system where each year two members-at-large are elected in for 2 years
 - ii. There would be four total member-at-large position with the positions rotating every two years
 - iii. Pros to this idea: it would increase continuity on the board and allow interested members to stay on the board for a longer period of time
 - iv. Cons: it may be difficult to recruit people for a 2-year long term
 - c. This discussion was also tabled to determine the level of interest in the coming election. This will continue to be discussed at the fall meeting and in future meetings if board members feel that potential changes are needed to the structure of the member-at-large positions
- C. Maintaining contact with former students
 - a. Members were asked to brainstorm ideas about how to maintain contact with former SPAGS members
 - b. An idea was discussed for an alumni group for post-docs and other young professionals who are members of SPA in order to help the transition from being a student to a professional
- D. Increasing knowledge and interest in personality assessment and SPA attendance

- a. Campus representatives could play a more active role in their departments to spread the word about personality assessment and attempt to increase interest
 - b. There was discussion about having a key note speaker outside of SPA
 - i. Mike informed the board that this was discussed at the SPA board meeting
 - c. SPAGS board should advertise more in the location of the annual meeting
 - i. Contact relevant programs and sites in the area (e.g. DCTs of local graduate departments, local psychological associations, internship and externship sites in the area, as well as psi chi and other psychology clubs at local universities)
 - d. Attempt to increase attendance and interest for professionals in the field who are using personality assessment clinically (in particular in the location of the annual meeting)
 - e. SPA could have instructional videos regarding personality assessment instruments posted on the website in order to increase understanding of different assessment tools
- E. New Committee: Recruitment Committee
- a. A new committee was created in order to help advertise SPA and SPAGS in the local area of the conference (see above)
 - b. Trevor will be the chair of this committee
 - c. Trevor will begin contacting programs and psychological associations in July or July regarding the upcoming conference
 - i. This will allow for individuals to submit abstracts to the conference if they are interested
- F. Requests from Robert Bornstein (SPA President)
- a. Dr. Bornstein stopped by during the SPAGS board meeting to discuss some issues with students
 - b. He wants the SPAGS board to think about ways to make SPA good for students and asked members to email him thoughts if we have them later
 - c. He believes we should do more in terms of symposia and student interest groups (e.g. licensing, balancing research and teaching in the early career)
 - i. We discussed having special interest lunches that focus on these issues
 - d. Important to keep student interest in personality assessment alive
 - i. An untapped resource for this is undergraduates
 - 1. Psi chi and other undergraduate student organizations should be contacted (particularly those in the area of the conference) in order to facilitate student interest early in their careers
 - 2. Undergraduate students should be invited to the student social and other SPAGS events
 - e. Discussion of an award for the best paper presentation in addition to the poster awards for students
 - f. In coming years, the SPAGS president should prepare a 5 minute statement during the opening plenary talk regarding SPAGS and student interest goals and visions for the year