

Society for Personality Assessment – Graduate Student (SPAGS) Section
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 11, 2011
The Royal Sonesta Hotel
Boston, MA

PRESENT:

Members: Justin Smith, Katherine Thomas, Christy Denckla, Michael Roche, Lesley Hiebing, Josh Eblin, Aidan Wright, Danielle Burchett, Jacob Finn

Absent: None

Substitutes: None

1. Explanation of agenda – Aidan

A. All in attendance agreed to the set agenda.

2. Discussion of the composition of the SPAGS Board

A. Diversity on the board is an issue. Obstacles and potential solutions are given below.

- i. Lab mates and friends of current SPAGS Board members tend to be the folks who become the future members of the SPAGS Board. Ideally, the SPAGS Board would be more diversely represented by a variety of SPAGS members. Potential solutions considered include: 1) make personal statements shorter to promote more voting, 2) contact all SPAGS members asking for their votes via email, Google groups, or Facebook.
- ii. Contacting all SPAGS members is very challenging because it is hard to know who is a current member and who is not. This is a challenge faced by all societies so we are not doing badly relatively speaking. However, this is an issue that needs further consideration.

3. Committee reports

A. Technology Committee – Jacob

- i. SPAGS Facebook page: There are currently 20 members. Jacob is still recruiting new members. Members are using the Facebook page as a way to find roommates No privacy issues have been reported thus far.
- ii. SPAGS Google group: Low membership is an issue. Current opt in method is not working. An email needs to be sent out to SPAGS members notifying them that they will be added to the Google group unless they opt out.
- iii. Katherine will be the Chair of the Technology Committee.

B. Social Committee – Danielle

- i. Description of duties: Position only requires one person. Primary role is to organize and implement the student social.
- ii. Attendance: Many more students attended the social this year. We believe that this is attributable to the following factors: 1) SPAGS requested and was awarded funding for food this year. Specifically, we were given \$300.00 which turned out to allow us to purchase a sufficient amount of food for all attendees, 2) Dr. Tom Widiger was asked to come and socialize with students, 3) The social was held at the conference hotel rather than off site.

- iii. Changes for next year: 1) We need to consider requesting more funding for next year, 2) We expect the turnout to be just as good as or better than this year for all of the abovementioned reasons and because many students who came to the conference and/or social alone met students at the social and are likely to want to return.
 - iv. Christy will be the Chair of the Social Committee.
- C. Education Committee – Michael
- i. The Education Committee should play a role in attracting students to SPA by providing unique training opportunities. Ideas discussed include: 1) Invite internship training directors, other faculty, and advanced students to conduct symposia or workshops designed to prepare students for internship and postdoc application processes, 2) generate an itemized listing of workshops to be offered next year with their respective prerequisite proficiency levels and then promote SPA as a place for students to receive training not offered in their graduate programs that will contribute to their proficiency in personality assessment, 3) deliberately provide more basic workshops for students, 4) offer a student discount on workshops.
 - ii. Invite forensic psychologists to discuss aspects of the internship and postdoc application process that are unique to forensic psychology. Aidan suggests contacting Dr. Ron Ganellen.
 - iii. Interface with the larger SPA Board to develop our ability to provide students with training geared toward becoming proficient in personality assessment. It is still unclear how to determine whether an individual is proficient in personality assessment. The SPA Board is currently working on this issue and the SPAGS Board should be involved to advocate the needs of students.
 - iv. Michael will be the Chair of the Education Committee with help from Josh.
- D. Diversity Committee – Lesley
- i. The Diversity Committee has previously been involved in conducting research relevant to diversity in personality assessment.
 - ii. The primary initiative of the Diversity Committee for next year is to organize an invited symposium regarding diversity in personality assessment.
 - iii. Lesley will be the Diversity Committee Chair.

4. New Membership Committee

A. The SPAGS Board agreed that a Membership Committee should be created. Initiatives of the Membership Committee are given below.

- i. Look within our membership to find folks who are members but are not coming to the SPA Conference.
- ii. Market SPA as a way to get training that training programs might not offer (e.g., Rorschach).
- iii. Potentially interface with other societies.
- iv. Disseminate information about SPA to CUDCUP and training directors. Internship directors feel that students are coming to internship without sufficient training in personality assessment. SPA might be able to help out and grow as a result.
- v. Justin will be the Membership Committee Chair.

5. Installation of new SPAGS Board

Justin Smith	PRESIDENT
Katherine Thomas	PRESIDENT-ELECT
Aidan Wright	PAST PRESIDENT
Christy Denckla	MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Michael Roche	MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Lesley Hiebing	MEMBER-AT-LARGE
Josh Eblin	SECRETARY

6. Plans for meeting next year

- A. SPA will be in Chicago.
- B. The SPAGS Board agrees that we should not meet during breakfast. We need to consider a new meeting time.

7. Discussion of goals for the next year

- A. Diversity Committee: organize invited symposium
- B. Social Committee: organize next social
- C. Technology Committee: manage Facebook page and SPAGS Google group
- D. Education Committee: organize student learning experiences and find out what the proficiency criteria are for personality assessment

8. The meeting was adjourned on March 11, 2011, at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Josh Eblin