

**SPAGS Report**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**September 8-10, 2017**

**2017-2018 Board Members**

President: Crista Maracic

President Elect: Adam Natoli

Past President: Emily Dowgwillo

Secretary: William Bryant

Member-at-Large: Chloe Bliton

Member-at-Large: Trevor Williams

Member-at-Large: Sindes Dawood

**SPAGS Activities for the 2017 Annual Meeting**

- SPAGS Social: Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 8-10pm
  - \$1000 budget and off-site location
    - Patriot House (1 Embarcadero Center – Level P San Francisco, CA 94111)
  - Chris Hopwood as distinguished guest
  - Attendance: >30
- SPAGS Educational Programming
  - Introduction to Popular Personality Assessment Measures: Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:15-4:15 pm
  - Personality Dynamics Over Time from Four Distinct Quantitative Approaches, Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:15-4:15 pm (offered for CE credits)
  - Planning for and Acquiring Post-Doc, Clinical and Academic Positions, Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-10:00 am
- SPAGS Student Diversity Lunch: Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm
  - Joni Mihura as distinguished guest
  - Focused on sex and gender dynamics in assessment
  - Attendance: ~25 attended

**Committee Updates**

- Membership/Technology Committee (Adam Natoli and William Bryant)
  - Initiative to increase awareness about SPAGS among graduate students
    - Created a SPAGS Facebook Group
      - 58 members currently (45% increase since Spring 2017 convention)
      - Used to communicate important deadlines, SPAGS and SPA news, recruit R-PAS trained students for a coding team for a student's research project, solicit questions for our roundtable discussion panel, and find roommates for the convention.
    - Sends out Welcome Email to new SPAGS members every three months
      - Will get updated member list from Monica Tune and send the next email in August 2017
      - Draft of welcome email has been created
    - Discussing how to go about updating the student section of the SPA website to make it more accessible and informative for SPAGS members.

- Social Committee (Adam Natoli and Trevor Williams)
  - SPAGS Social held at Patriot House Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 8-10pm.
  - Chris Hopwood as invited guest
  - Monica Tune helped to handle the reservation
    - \$1000 budget
    - Patriot House has a spending minimum of \$1000 causing the total cost to fall slightly over budget but we were able to move forward with Monica's help given limited options for low-cost venues in San Francisco.
  - Moved event from Thursday evening to Friday evening in hopes of increasing attendance
- Diversity Committee (Crista Maracic and Trevor Williams)
  - Took place Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm
  - In response to difficulty in years past filling seats at the diversity lunch, the SPAGS board voted to *combine the student lunch and diversity lunch* at the March 2016 meeting, so that students are not over-burdened with lunch events and so that our lunches have less overlap with special interest groups
    - Anticipating higher attendance
  - Took place Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>
  - Joni Mihura as invited guest
    - Over 50 registered, less than half attended, 6 attended without registering
      - The number of students who sign up and do not attend continues to rise. This issue is being addressed by the Diversity Committee and SPAGS e-board
    - Discussed sex/gender dynamics in assessment
  - Got rid of the \$10 fee
  - Potentially including a panel of speakers in the future although getting commitment from possible speakers is difficult.
    - Some discussion of encouraging student researchers to apply for the SPA research grants (\$500) and possibly having them present on diversity at the lunch.
- Education Committee (Sindes Dawood and Chloe Bliton)
  - Introduction to Popular Personality Assessment Measures, Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:15-4:15 pm
    - Benjamin Berry, Gesa Kohlmeier, Katy Martin-Fernandez, Evan Good, Sindes Dawood
    - Bob Bornstein as Discussant
  - Personality Dynamics Over Time from Four Distinct Quantitative Approaches, Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2:15-4:15 pm (offered for CE credits)
    - Johannes Zimmermann, Pamela Sadler, Aaron Fisher, Michael Roche
    - Pamela Sadler as Discussant
  - Planning for and Acquiring Post-Doc, Clinical and Academic Positions, Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-10:00 am
    - Bruce Smith, Nicole Cain, Emily Ansell, Jill Clemence, Matthew Yalch, Jacob Finn, Mark Blais
  - Some panels occur at the same time, which is a problem, but it is the best that could be done given the schedule.
  - Will emphasize the importance of going to these panels and asking questions as students; it demonstrates to the speakers how important students consider this (and also encourages future speakers).
    - SPA really provides unique focus and opportunity for students.
- Election Committee (Emily Dowgwillo)
  - Moved Election Date from Early Spring to Mid-November
    - Had enough people for an election this year

- Elections held after people have heard about whether their conference abstracts have been accepted and before people start making travel plans
  - 2 nominations for President-Elect, 1 for the Secretary, and 4 nominations for Members-at-Large.
    - All positions were filled and elections generally ran smoothly.
  - New Board Consists of:
    - **President Elect:** Adam Natoli
    - **Secretary:** William Bryant
    - **Member-at-Large:** Chloe Bliton, Trevor Williams, Sindes Dawood
  - All new board members will be attending the SPAGS board meeting in March, so earlier elections worked out as anticipated.
    - We should continue moving forward with this method.
- Recruitment Committee (Crista Maracic)
  - Contacted local organizations, universities, and psychological associations to promote the SPA conference and encourage participation
  - Received positive feedback from programs, including distributing flyers throughout campuses, printing conference info in campus/ department newsletters, and direct inquiries from local professors who are interested in attending with their students
    - Specifically, there were responses from:
      - Psi Chi Western Regional VP for Psi Chi
      - San Jose State University
      - University of Rochester
      - Alliant International University, San Francisco Campus
        - Individuals from Alliant said they were attending, however, they did not follow through with registration and attendance
        - Efforts will continue to be made regarding promotion and outreach to local organizations and universities, including ensuring attendance

## Continued Discussions and New Business

- Diversity Topics
  - Difficulty securing a speaker
    - Incentivize student panel format (i.e., award/ funding)
    - Hybrid approach – professor as guest speaker and pilot award program
      - “SPAGS Poster Diversity Award” – best consideration of diversity in poster project for both poster sessions
        - SPA members aid in selection process
        - Certificate/ financial compensation
          - Requesting \$100 gift cards for two winners
        - Goal of weaving into diversity lunch
  - Difficulties this year organizing diversity related activities
  - Brainstorm candidates for next year’s student diversity lunch
    - Prospective speakers were not always swift in email responses about the lunch so try to get a speaker as early as possible (i.e., prior to November).
  - Difficulty obtaining and securing student attendance
    - There will be efforts made to increase promotion for event registration and attendance via early and frequent social media advertisement
    - Event will be promoted during the convention through the app for those who previously registered

- Being conscientious of overload
    - Reminder emails will be sent out to those who registered for the event
  - Brainstorm ways to incorporate topics of diversity at future meetings
    - Create a student diversity research award/grant that includes presenting the research at the SPAGS diversity event the year following receiving the award/grant.
      - This was discussed but it seemed as though it might be worth putting more emphasis on getting students to apply for the grants that are already available as many are left over.
      - Additionally, it may be helpful to broaden the scope of diversity to go beyond gender and ethnicity to include topic areas like working with geriatric populations.
        - Underserved/ understudied populations – racial/ethnic minority, immigrant, cognitively/physically impaired, low SES, veteran etc.
    - Travel grants are not limited to presenters
      - However, must be SPA member
      - This will be emphasized more during recruitment efforts/Facebook deadline reminders, including advertising International Student Travel Grant
    - Include a post on the Facebook group along the lines of a “Did you know...(bullet points about the eligibility for research/dissertation/travel grants)?”
- Election related topics
  - Updating bylaws regarding requirements to run for SPAGS Board position
    - The bylaws mention that the president cannot have graduated with their terminal degree before the end of his/her first year of service, but makes no mention about how this might apply to members at large or secretary
    - Based on the email chain, it seems that there was some agreement about extending the same rule to the secretary position (cannot have graduated with their terminal degree before the end of his/her first year of service).
      - Regarding the student status of SPAGS board members, it was agreed that as long as the individual is a student when they take over ***and are willing to continue the commitment and work in that role***, they could graduate in May the year they are elected and still serve on the board.
        - The president, however, still cannot have graduated before the end of their first year.
    - Based on the email chain, it seems there was some agreement about requiring Members at Large be students when they officially join the Board in March but could graduate before completing their year on the Board.
  - Procedure for handling tie in SPAGS Elections
    - According to the Bylaws, it is up to the SPAGS Board to make a decision in the event of a tie.
    - This year, the Board members (excluding those involved in the tie) voted to determine the winner.
      - This exclusion made little difference this year because both were board members and presumably each would have voted for themselves
      - In the future, Board members will be excluded in the event of a tie
- Technology/Membership
  - SPAGS Facebook group became a public group to increase site traffic and potential membership
    - Will stay public unless there is sufficient reason for it to revert back to being a closed group (e.g., consistent trolling).

- Initiative to digitize the student travel award application process
  - Monica Tune consented to electronic submission of application (i.e., sign, scan, and email) over ‘snail mail’
- SPAGS Social Date
  - In the past we have talked about moving our social to Friday or Saturday night
  - For 2018 convention, social will be held on Thursday, March 15, to allow members to attend the gala held on March 16
    - Social Committee working on securing location for event
  - Requesting \$1,000 budget
- SPAGS Membership
  - Overall, 156 SPAGS members, 4 undergraduate students, 2 applied student affiliates. Always seeking to increase membership
  - Keeping SPAGS open to undergraduate students and encouraging interested students in our labs to submit research and attend convention
- SPAGS Recruitment
  - Coordinate with Chris Hopwood to provide an R-PAS workshop in the fall