

Society for Personality Assessment – Graduate Student (SPAGS) Section
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 25, 2010
The Fairmont Hotel
San Jose, CA

PRESENT:

Members: Chris Hopwood, Aidan Wright, Elizabeth Koonce, Danielle Burchett, Sandra Horn, Pilar Sumalpong, and Jacob Finn

Absent: Martin Sellbom and Joyce Williams

Substitutes: None

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

2. Elizabeth has decided to step down from her position as President-Elect
 - A. Bylaws are unclear about how to handle this situation.
 - B. Newly elected President-Elect (Aidan) moves into position of President and the SPAGS Board will decide how to fill the position of President-Elect.
 - i. Ideas considered include: 1) offering the position to the runner-up in the recent Presidential election (Justin Smith), 2) moving another officer into the position of President-Elect and finding a replacement for that position, 3) holding a new election for President-Elect
 - ii. Discussed the pros and cons of having the membership vote versus having the Board make a decision, including limited time and need to fill position quickly.
 - iii. Chris will talk with Justin about taking the position. If Justin wants it, we're set. If not, Jacob will take the position, and Sandra will step in to Jacob's position.
 - iv. Decision will be emailed to SPAGS, and bylaw changes will include back-up plans for such occasions in the future.

3. Debriefing on SPA Board Meeting - Chris
 - A. The SPA Board voted to change the bylaws and to allow undergraduate students to become members of SPAGS.
 - B. There is a growing focus on supporting students.
 - i. Membership dues were increased for students but at a lower rate than other membership groups
 - ii. Increase in student funding: travel awards and dissertation grants
 - iii. Focus on retention of students beyond receiving their Ph.D.

4. Discussion Regarding Ways of Increasing Student Involvement
 - A. Increase the attendance at the student lunch at the annual conference
 - i. Better marketing to students, increase awareness
 - ii. Market it as a networking opportunity, talk with peers
 - iii. Include in marketing the number of students who attended the lunch last year
 - iv. Is it possible to make the registration for the lunch more flexible/same-day registration? – Will need to check with Paula about this
 - v. We could talk at the lunch about SPAGS and the projects we're working on
 - B. Increase the attendance at the student mixer at the annual conference
 - i. Keep up good work on marketing
 - ii. Possibly move SPAGS board meeting to ensure officers can attend poster session and then escort students to the SPAGS mixer after the poster session.

- C. The idea of a SPAGS-sponsored symposium was discussed
 - i. Presentations would include the Beck Award, the Cerney Award, a presentation on research productivity and/or grant funding, and a clinical talk
 - ii. Market SPA to graduate students as an opportunity to “round out” clinical training
- D. The idea of a SPAGS-sponsored networking activity with internship sites or graduate faculty members
 - i. Clinical directors and faculty members could recruit students

5. Committee Reports

- A. Education Committee – Sandra
 - i. Currently compiling a list of sites self-identified as having an emphasis on assessment, particularly personality assessment
 - ii. Using APPIC site and sites that publish research
 - iii. Identify what internship sites are represented at SPA
 - iv. Get a small description for the various sites
 - v. Survey students about their internships and their ratings of the site
 - vi. Sandra will continue to be the Education Committee Chair this year.
- B. Programming Committee – Danielle
 - i. Reported on the plans for the mixer tonight.
 - ii. Discussed success of marketing
 - iii. Officers will help walk graduate students over to the mixer
 - iv. Danielle will continue to be the Programming Committee Chair this year.
- C. Diversity Committee – Pilar
 - i. 14% response rate from the survey, data will be presented
 - ii. The survey will be changed and continue next year
 - iii. Pilar will continue to be the Diversity Committee Chair this year.
- D. Technology Committee – Elizabeth
 - i. We have less control over the website now. Decided to make the Google Group our “website”.
 - ii. SPA is appointing a website coordinator
 - iii. We need to get more people on the listserv. There are 184 people in SPAGS. We decided to ask Paula if there is a way to add all members to the listserv and then allow people to opt out if they choose.
 - iv. Use Google Group to get info out and provide contact information to SPAGS
 - v. Jacob will be the Technology Committee Chair this year.
- E. Elections
 - i. Chris is now the Chair of the Elections Committee.

6. SPAGS Bylaws

- A. Decided to post the Bylaws file on Google Documents and the officers will go through and decide what changes we would like to propose to SPAGS for a vote. Jacob will post the bylaws on Google Documents.
- B. Chris will be the Chair of the Bylaw Committee.

7. Plans for meeting next year.

- A. SPA will be in Boston
- B. Consider meeting during the Master Lecture time
- C. May be better to go to the SPAGS mixer, talk with students about issues, and then bring issues to the board meeting. We would then be able to report our decisions to students at the student lunch or the symposium.

8. Discussion of Goals for the Next Year – Aidan

- A. SPAGS should facilitate student experiences

- i. Students should be resources for each other
 - ii. Network and start collaborations
- B. Better utilize the message boards and Google Group
 - i. Will work with the Technology Committee on this.

9. The meeting was adjourned on March 25, 2010, at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacob Finn