

**SPAGS Report  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 14-15, 2018**

**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

**Installation of 2018-2019 Board Members**

President: Adam Natoli  
President Elect: Sharon Nelson  
Past President: Crista Maracic  
Secretary: William Bryant  
Member-at-Large: Chloe Bliton  
Member-at-Large: Sindes Dawood  
Member-at-Large: Alana Harrison

**All board members present for the 2018 Meeting**

**SPAGS Activities for the 2018 Annual Meeting**

- SPAGS Social: Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 8-10pm
  - \$1000 budget for food and beverages at off-site location – Bier Baron Tavern
    - Under budget by ~ \$300
  - R. Michael Bagby as distinguished guest
  - Attendance: ~ 40
- SPAGS Educational Programming: Clinical themed panels
  - Personality Assessment and Treatment Planning: Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm (offered for 2CE credits)
  - Personality Assessment Practice in Diverse Settings, Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:45-3:15 pm (offered for 2CE credits)
- SPAGS Student Diversity Lunch: canceled, as per Board vote at Fall Board Meeting
  - Instead, collaborating with SPA's newly found Diversity Committee
  - SPAGS Diversity Committee to present with SPA's Diversity Committee
    - Diversity-Minded Personality Assessment as a Tool to Make the World More Inclusive and Just? (offered for 2CE credits)

**Committee Updates**

- Membership/Technology Committee (Adam Natoli and William Bryant)
  - Initiative to increase awareness about SPAGS among graduate students

- SPAGS Facebook Group
  - 58 members currently (45% increase since Spring 2017 convention) – do we know the % increase since the fall registration date? – 64 members
  - 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.
  - Made public to increase traffic to our page
- Sends out biweekly/ monthly email to SPAGS members regarding SPA updates/ convention details/ grant information etc.
  - Will send out emails at the beginning of each month.
    - They will include information from each committee if applicable.
      - Committee members will post information on a Google Docs sheet and a member of the tech committee will send it all out.
  - Send out reminder of abstract submissions in June to give people time to put something together for the October deadline.
- Discussing how to go about updating the student section of the SPA website to make it more accessible and informative for SPAGS members – I don’t think anything came out of this. Thoughts?
  - Can we have an email address for SPAGS?
- Social Committee (Adam Natoli and Alana Harrison)
  - SPAGS Social will be held at Bier Baron Tavern Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 8-10pm.
  - R. Michael Bagby as invited guest
  - Monica Tune helped to handle the reservation – did she?
    - \$1000 budget; final estimated cost: \$729.96 (includes tax and tip)
    - Last year, Patriot House had 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 back to Thursday evening from Friday evening due to JPA 100<sup>th</sup> volume/ SPA’s 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
  - Attendance: ~ 40
  - Flyer created for Registration Packet at convention
  - Promoted via email and social media
- Diversity Committee (Crista Maracic and Sharon Nelson)
  - In response to low attendance at the 2017 student diversity lunch, the SPA board voted to *cancel the luncheon*.
  - Diversity-Minded Personality Assessment as a Tool to Make the World More Inclusive and Just? (offered for 2CE credits)
    - Panel: Giselle Hass (chair), Erlanger Turner (discussant), and the following as presenters – Radhika Krishnamurthy, Virginia Brabender, Crista Maracic, and Trevor Williams.
      - Potential idea: whoever wins the SPA diversity award could speak at some point to SPAGS members
  - At the Fall 2017 Board meeting, the request to present two “SPAGS Poster Diversity Awards” was accepted. However, criteria and guidelines must be established and submitted before the Call for Papers opens on July 1. Therefore, applicants will be eligible to apply for the **2019 convention**.
    - Criteria and guidelines for entry will be determined by SPAGS Board prior to the 2018 spring annual convention for SPA Board approval at the Spring Board meeting

- Award information will be submitted to Monica by first week of June so that the website can be updated and new online abstract forms can be created by the Call for Papers opening on July 1
  - This award is granted in consideration of the best diversity in poster project for both poster sessions
  - SPA and SPAGS Diversity Committee members aid in selection process
  - Certificate/ financial compensation in the amount of two \$100 gift cards
    - Or just a check
  - Application process: students will apply to receive reward. They will be awarded at the convention, once posters are reviewed by SPAGS Diversity Committee members (Trevor and myself) and SPA Diversity Committee Members (new committee chaired by Giselle Hass). Other SPAGS members can participate in this process if they wish. Students will not be required to speak at this year's diversity event.
  - Winners can be invited to 2020 convention, once they already have been awarded.
- Education Committee (Sindes Dawood and Chloe Bliton)
  - Personality Assessment and Treatment Planning: Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 4-6pm (offered for 2CE credits)
    - Symposium focused on how assessors/clinicians can use specific personality assessment measures to guide treatment planning and therapeutic work in the consulting room.
    - Panel: Greg Meyer on Rorschach/R-PAS; Yossef Ben-Porath on MMPI-2-RF; James Choca on MCMI; Mark Blais on PAI; and Chris Hopwood on Interpersonal Assessment.
  - Personality Assessment Practice in Diverse Settings, Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1:45-3:15 pm (offered for 2CE credits)
    - Roundtable discussion focused on the professional role of personality assessors in a variety of career trajectories and disciplines.
    - Panel: Virginia Brabender, Mark Waugh, Marv Acklin, Hal Shorey, and Chris Front.
  - Panels were scheduled at different times, which was an improvement from last year whereby two panels occurred simultaneously, limiting the ability of students and other members to attend both.
  - 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).
    - Sindes and Chloe – can please do this at the start and throughout the panels?
- Election Committee (Crista Maracic)
  - Moved Election Date from Early Spring to Mid-November
    - Elections held after people have heard about whether their conference abstracts have been accepted and before people start making travel plans.
    - Had enough people for an election this year, although it was a challenge.
      - Election Committee resorted to recruiting personal contacts due to few nominations.
  - 2 nominations for President-Elect and 5 nominations for Members-at-Large.
    - All positions were filled and elections generally ran smoothly. – Emily, can you confirm?
  - New Board Consists of:
    - **President Elect:** Sharon Nelson
    - **Secretary:** William Bryant (2 year position)
    - **Member-at-Large:** Chloe Bliton, Sindes Dawood, and Alana Harrison
  - All new board members will be attending the SPAGS board meeting in March.
- Recruitment Committee (Sharon Nelson and Alana Harrison)
  - Created and shared Google Sheet to distribute workload among Committee members

- Contacted ~45 local organizations, universities, and psychological associations to promote the SPA conference and encourage participation
  - Unfortunately did not receive feedback from programs, which was the case for the 2017 annual convention
  - Efforts will continue to be made regarding promotion and outreach to local organizations and universities, including ensuring attendance
- Create a SPAGS flier for recruitment?
- Possible recruiting table during poster sessions, provide SPAGS brochures?

### **Continued Discussions and New Business**

- Diversity Topics
  - “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
      - Request accepted at Fall Board meeting
    - Criteria and guidelines must be established and submitted to Monica before the Call for Papers opens on July 1.
  - Difficulties this year organizing diversity related activities
    - Consequently, participation in Diversity Panel with SPA Diversity Committee members
  - Reconsider diversity event
    - Student diversity lunch
      - Consider speakers
      - Consider efforts to obtain and secure student attendance
      - Consider promotion and advertising of event
    - Incentivize student panel format (i.e., award/ funding)
      - Revisit hybrid approach – professor as guest speaker and pilot award program
  - Brainstorm ways to incorporate topics of diversity at future meetings
    - 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 but students must be SPAGS members
  - This was and will continue to be emphasized during recruitment efforts/Facebook deadline reminders, including advertising International Student Travel Grant.
  - Travel grants are now in the form of room reservations. This is in an effort to help students save money but also to stay in the convention hotel, which will increase networking between SPA and SPAGS members.
  - Included “Did you know...(bullet points about the eligibility for research/dissertation/travel grants)?” posts on Facebook.
    - Advertised that grant funding for student research increased to “awards in the amount of up to \$800.”
    - This will continue
- Election related topics
  - Updating bylaws regarding requirements to run for SPAGS Board position

