

SPSI Business Meeting Minutes 11/8/2023

Present: A. Albert, K. McKittrick, C. Malkmus, S. Walker, K. Weisbard, M. Bullard, M. Brooks, D. Wolman, K. Lippman, C. Keats, D. Fort, S. Radant, M. Pauly, J. DeMott, R. Huska, R. Meredith, K. Wiesbard, A. Buchinski, K. Weissbourd, R. Kelly, L. Jordan, P. Crastnopol

1. Call to order - 7:33pm
2. Minutes **Approved**
3. Director report – C. Keats See below
4. Board Report – R. Huska: Announced a **community retreat 3/9** facilitated by Paul Horton. Lease extended on the Madison space through June to minimize disruptions to classes while the new space is built out. SPSI retreat will take place in the multipurpose room in the new space. New space will be finished sometime this spring
5. Diane Wolman and Julie Wood were nominated to the ethics committee **Approved**.
6. Committee Reports -
 - a. Curriculum – K. McKittrick: Curriculum committee is keeping infant observation class during Friday noon-5:pm class time. The propose to use a case conference slot during the 2nd and 4th year in lieu of a case conference.
 - b. Diversity – L. Jordan: The Diversity committee will begin a series of 4 small groups to work through the Holmes Commission Report. Each group will read through the report in sections, meet and discuss, and then take turns presenting sequential sessions to the community at Business Meetings in January, February, March, and April.
 - c. Sign-ups for groups will go out this month.
7. Discussion D.E.I reports and issues
 - a. **Admissions**, M. Pauly: Seeks representation in admissions, expand outreach efforts & take care in how we interact with potential candidates via careful pairing with SPSI representatives and deeper candidate support during the first year on issues like choice of AoC & CA & other important issues in training.
 - b. **CAAO**, A. Thomas: Suggests a DEI checkin at each CAAO meeting, offering one symposium a year on DEI issues, inviting an outside consultant to discuss the Holmes Report, working with curriculum to bring in more diverse representation in articles and case discussion. Will advocate for greater equity in access to AoCs, CAs, and broaden various pools to enhance a DEI focus in training.

- c. **Colleague Assistance**, L. Jordan reading for A. Delancey: “Reflective Spaces” continues to be a place for deep engagement with DEI issues in our community. Proposes the development of a body of people of color to address DEI issues and racialized enactments.
 - d. **Ombuds program**, A. Albert: Seeks expansion of the ombuds program to include a second alternate – will work with M. Bullard to discuss other developments. Will also work to make the presence of the Ombuds program KNOWN to candidates and faculty to help with DEI or any issues that arise in training or the community.
 - e. **Progression**, M. Brooks: DEI matters have been discussed in meetings resulting in “great conversations”. Topics include “to what extent is the progression system at SPSI racist ?” resulting in an acknowledgment that the power structures are applied inconstantly & rely on unpredictable methodology. Progression will continue to work at the interface of institution and candidate to ensure optimal learning opportunities for all.
8. Discussion of DEI committee Reports, Facilitated by L. Jordan:
- a. L. Jordan: goal is to “institutionalize anti-racism”
 - b. M. Bullard: Make Holmes Report findings integrated in our culture & processes, allow ourselves to get messy safely
 - c. S. Radant: Come to Town Hall events, assist with the formerly named collective grant committee to dispense funds in ways that encourage diversity.
 - d. D. Fort: Pre-occupied with the war and the trapped children – sad, hopeless & upset
 - e. A. Buchinski: Echoes A. Delancey’s idea about a body of people of color to advise us, pleased to be speaking and learning & working to transcend ignorance & lessen shame.
 - f. C. Keats: Expressed need for SPSI to have analysts & supervisors who look like the candidates. White analysts need to raise their own awarenesses
 - g. M. Brooks: Keep having discussions of power structures at SPSI, examine how we are hypocritical, how can we be responsible for this? Lets read & learn together.
 - h. J. DeMott: Appreciative & enthusiastic about getting DEI into our culture
 - i. C. Malkmus: Relieved & heartened to be having this meeting, overwhelmed by the Holmes Report, much needs to be done & glad to see SPSI taking it on.
 - j. R. Hushka: Grateful for the opportunity to work & think & share w/ such a wise group & hopes to take this out to a wider community.
 - k. A. Albert: Pre-occupied with the pain in the world & grateful that SPSI is taking this on.
 - l. M. Pauly: Optimistic SPSI is creating space for harmony. Looking forward to dealing with the waiver & distance consultants that will allow us to not struggle internally & build a healthy diverse community.
 - m. A. Thomas: Echoes call for a culture of where people can share openly regardless of the emotions involved. He appreciates the time taken to address these issues & hopes as a faculty we can learn more.
 - n. R. Kelly: Newer to the SPSI community, feels we are all in this together & looking forward to reading the Holmes Report

- o. K. McKittrick: Excited about the small group opportunity & as a curriculum committee representative made note of the CAAO intention to create a list of DEI readings.
 - p. P. Crastopol: heartening to have a full & nuanced discussion of “ills & imbalances” expressed concern about judgement, notions of good/bad – victim/victimizer & desires to keep an open space between these roles. Recommended the author Claudia Rankine, her books are Citizen and Just Us. She especially highlighted the second one, which is Rankine’s latest. Rankine’s website: <https://claudiarankine.com/>
 - q. K. Wiesbard: Put out a heartfelt question to all to ask “How are you?” in the face of the anti-semitism and murder roiling the middle east communities & diaspora. This includes a plea to take care of ourselves, our families, patients and students & world.
 - r. A. Delancey: Encouraged us to look at chapter 7 of the Holmes Report & stressed how DEI is about relationships. She encouraged us to attend the Town Hall & Reflective Space processes.
 - s. S. Walker: We need to engage more with the world that our patients and candidates living in. They are different than they were. We need to make an institutional commitment to recruiting from those communities and “invite others in”.
 - t. J. Soeprono: Remarked on the power of shame to foster hiding and how community fosters growth.
9. Professional Practice pages on SPSI Website – question of linking member websites.
Approved
10. Proposals for name change from “Faculty Meeting” to SPSI “Business Meeting” –
Approved
11. Announcements:
- a. M. Pauly: Open house Sunday, RSVP please. We have 20 potential applicants. Faculty please come but be aware that this is a “candidate experience emphasized” format.
 - b. K. Weisbard: Monday night all instructors teaching in the 2024-26 are invited to a potluck to review & plan
 - c. M. Brooks acknowledged the following individuals for presenting their ideas in various forums. Karen Weisbard, Ben Shafar (current 2YCP student), and Jason Jost, Michael Allison and Jeanette Farrell (2YCP faculty) all presented at the 2023 IFPE (International Forum for Psychoanalytic Education) conference last month
12. Adjourn - 9:00 sharp

Respectfully submitted,
Martin Bullard Faculty Chair, Elect

Directors Report – C. Keats: Director’s Report to Faculty November 8, 2023

There’s good news! As some of you may know, Rock has taken Sebco up on an offer to remain in our current building until June 30, 2024 with credit for the huge overage in rent we have been paying the last few months. This is wonderful as we will have no disruption in the courses this academic year, and it will allow us to move only once – we won’t have to put things in storage. It seems almost certain that the new quarters will be ready for us by July 1. Further good news is that Randy Paulsen, father of candidate Jesse Paulsen, has been approved as consulting analyst here at SPSI. He had previously served as a Training and Supervising Analyst at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute.

Everyone continues to be upset by events in the Middle East. The Board crafted a statement on this which elicited at least one critical comment. I responded that we had done our best and that I recommended dialog with each other rather than statements. Unfortunately making no statement is also a statement, so it is not an acceptable option. But dialog is best, and perhaps we can use Town Hall and Reflective Spaces as places to talk with each other. There was discussion at Reflective Spaces last month of continuing concerns over the decision of the curriculum committee to make infant observation a requirement rather than an elective, and I understand that candidates are continuing the conversation, beyond the issue of whether it should be required, to suggestions about how it is conducted. Sandy Walker has stated that there are DEI implications as IO is expensive in time and money. I personally feel it should be elective, but, in a sense, all decisions about what courses to require are based on the question of what we are to become – NPSI, for instance, is known for having a lot of courses on the British Object Relations theorists. What will SPSI be known for? Every required course implies a decision that taking that course is necessary to becoming an analyst. But our field grows, and, we hope, improves. I will argue below for inclusion of courses on the political science of colonialism. Just as many arguments may be brought to bear on including IO as on including any other course, though there is a cost benefit ratio to consider as well. The curriculum committee policies and procedures state that the curriculum committee plans and carries out the didactic part of the core program, and I favor following the P and Ps. A faculty vote would be required to change them. Overall, I support the autonomy of committees, and I am very glad the curriculum committee is sensitive to candidate input. It seems to me that all I can urge as Director is that we remain in respectful dialog with each other as we grapple with these charged issues. The Board plans a retreat for March 9 to help us be on the same page. Our mission, in my view, is to train psychoanalysts and to provide a place for them to flourish. There is plenty of room for elaboration in all directions. Will that training, for instance, need to broaden in this time when we are interested in the social as well as the intrapsychic?

Tonight we will be talking about DEI issues. If you haven’t seen it, I recommend Elliott Schwebach’s article in the recent JAPA. He said Franz Fanon brought to our attention sociogenic traumas that need study along with the ontogenic traumas of the Oedipal with which we are perhaps more familiar, and which analytic institutes have long privileged. He felt curricula should be bolstered with scholarly material on racial political history to illustrate how the colonial mindset is alive today in its various derivative forms, and how it has traumatized all of us, no matter our race, as much as the ontogenic trauma on which we have more traditionally focused. Perhaps this can be part of what we speak with each other

about tonight. Besides urging respectful dialog, as Director I also have the pleasure of noting important contributions of others, and in this connection I want to thank Kelly and Kathy Weissbourd for leading what I understand was a successful kick off to their planned series for instructors – a practicum on speaking together.