

Seattle Psychoanalytic Society and Institute
Business Meeting Minutes
12/13/2023 Via Zoom

Attending: J. DeMott, A. Buchinski, M. Bullard, R. Paulsen, D. Fort, R. Hushka, C. Keats, S. Radant, J. Wood, K. Wiessbourd, R. Kelly, K. McKittrick

1. Call to order. – **7:34**

2. Vote on minutes from November Faculty meeting. – **Postponed** to update incorrect information regarding the Holmes Commission small group process. (The present minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting are updated with correct information detailed below in section 6-c the Diversity Committee Report section).

3. Director Report. C. Keats – **Attached Below**

4. Board Report. R. Hushka – Provided details of the new SPSI space. \$75k has been requested from our Seattle foundation funds to add to the 100+k offered by the landlord. Permits & design are proceeding well. We are on track for a projected move-in date of May 1 2024. SPSI will conduct classes through June at the Madison location for sake of continuity.

The following events will happen at the NEW space:

Open House – 1/6/2024; Community Retreat – 3/9/2024; Year end retreat 5/17/2024

Saving over \$10k in venue fees.

6. Committee Reports

- a. Curriculum Committee. K. McKittrick – Committee is in full discussion of the 2 & 4 year curriculums & meeting needs of those cohorts
- b. 2YCP Committee Information Session March 3. K. McKittrick – invites all community members to attend the program's open house 3/3/24 . A doodle poll will be conducted to identify a date for a student / faculty brunch.
- c. Diversity Committee. E. Jordan
The Diversity Committee would like to invite everyone at SPSI to consider joining a small group to read through the Holmes Commission Report together this year.

Here is the plan for the Holmes Commission Report small groups:

- Each small group will meet 4 times, once a month, as follows: once before the January faculty meeting, once before the February faculty meeting, once before the March faculty meeting, once before the April faculty meeting.
- Small groups will decide among themselves the dates to meet that work for group members.
- Groups are encouraged to be leaderless and to involve participation from all members.

- The Diversity Committee will send each small group the chapters for participants to read each month (about 2 chapters per month) before the small group meeting.
- At the January, February, March, and April SPSI Faculty Meetings (which will hopefully occur after the small groups have met) we will set aside at least 10 minutes for a spokesperson from one small group to discuss some of the themes their group discussed that month.
- Anyone who does not wish to join a Holmes Commission Small Group at SPSI is still encouraged to read the chapters each month that the small groups will be reading and to follow/participate in any discussion we are able to have at the Faculty Meetings.

Here is the process for signing up:

- Please reply and email Zan by December 15th if you are interested in joining a small group.
- If you identify as BIPOC and would be interested in joining a BIPOC-only group, please comment on that in your email as well. If you are BIPOC-identifying and do not wish to be in a BIPOC-only group, no need to comment.
- Zan will help us to confidentially create groups that avoid clinical conflicts.

7. DEI Check ins: NONE

8. More business: NONE

9. Announcements:

R. Hushka asks if anyone can obtain demographic information including race, gender, class on mental health professionals in WA state.

A. Buchinski announces that CAO representative will be invited to present at SPSI business meetings in the future.

10. Adjourn 7:56

Respectfully submitted,
Martin Bullard Faculty Chair, Elect

Director's Report to Faculty December 13, 2023:

“Implementation of the Diversity Committee’s initiative to hold small group discussions of the Holmes Report is in the works. I urge everyone to sign up for a small group. Leadership is making every effort to respond in a timely fashion to issues brought before us by CAMs and ombuds. Please let me or the faculty chair, faculty chair elect, or director elect know of issues that we have not been addressing. Good venues for discussion include Town Hall and Reflective Spaces. Members of the Board of Directors hope that the move to our new location can be an occasion to reinvent ourselves, if part or all of us needs reinventing. To that end a Retreat is planned for Saturday March 9. The Retreat provides an opportunity to review our Mission and Vision. I have been saying that I believe our Mission is 1) to train psychoanalysts and 2) to provide a place for them to flourish. In my view this vision encompasses changing views of what it means to be an analyst, and what it means for us to flourish in a changing world. In order to do anything, however, we need a structure within which to do it, to keep the lights on and to make decisions. There has been a move over the years to democratize decision making. How are we doing with this, and how is this doing for us? We have changed the name of Faculty Meeting to Business Meeting, in light of the new situation that candidates have a vote in educational matters, which almost always means, in all matters. We have changed the name of the TA committee to Consulting Analyst and Analyst of Candidate Committee, and are in the process of changing its task from gatekeeping to educating ourselves about how to do as well as we can in these roles. The Collective Grant Committee is now called The Collective Scholarship Committee, reflecting the use to which its monies have been put. We have not changed our other committees or their tasks, and we have not changed an organizational chart which one might think imprecise when it comes to chain of command. Do we want to make this more akin to what supposedly makes for good organizational function, with clear lines of authority, or do we want to maintain this diffusion of power, as being good for a place like ours? The International Psychoanalytic Association has identified the problem that despite members having had supposedly successful analyses, and supposedly common purposes, there have been splits and fights within the institutes. We have seen this happen here at SPSI and we have had the idea that studying our past, and studying group process, can help us work together amicably, supporting each other and our goals. We hope, as always, for respectful dialog when there are disagreements, as can be expected to arise in any organization, especially ones charged with designing and executing a curriculum around what is most helpful to our clinical charges, when all that is enduringly clear is that nothing is clearly clear, and that this is a good thing.”