Group Specialty Council Minutes
June 27th, 2022

Present: Noelle Lefforge, President; Vinny Dehili, Vice President; Katie White, Secretary; Lorraine Wodiska, AGPA Pres-Elect; Gary Burlingame, AGPA President; Darryl Pure, ABGP/ABPP President; Steve Van Wagoner, IBCGP Chair

Excused: Misha Bogomaz, Treasurer; Kendra Jackson, ASGW Representative; Farooq Mohyuddin, St. Elizabeth’s Representative; Nina Brown, past Council President; Amy Nitza, Division 49 President; Steve Van Wagoner, IBCGP Chair; Molyn Leszcz, past-President AGPA

Noelle began the meeting by offering a space to process the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. The group discussed the personal and professional hardships posed by the decision. Additionally, each council member checked in with the group by sharing the things that were most prominent in their own lives.

Since the Group Specialty Council’s (GSC) May meeting, Noelle had the opportunity to present the group specialty to the Council of Specialties (CoS). She provided them with the budget proposal and received positive feedback. It seemed to her that the other specialties have had some difficulty securing stable, ongoing funding. Noelle expressed gratitude and appreciation to the GSC for its cohesiveness and cooperativeness.

Noelle also shared that she had met with Rick Seime and Vincent Molinari to continue to develop the taxonomy. Those two individuals are intimately involved with the development of taxonomies and APA’s initiative to standardize taxonomies across specialties. Noelle shared the feedback they provided regarding the alignment between the taxonomy and the petition: It is more important that the taxonomy is consistent across domains than that it aligns with the petition. Steve asked to see the taxonomy, and Noelle shared the link to the taxonomy with the group.

The next step is to take a deeper look at the taxonomy to ensure its consistency with the taxonomies of other specialties and to develop the language for the remaining sections. Noelle is scheduled to meet with Misha and Vinny in the upcoming days to accomplish that. The biggest challenge in creating a good taxonomy is finding some balance between generalization and specificity. In other words, the taxonomy must be general enough to be applicable to and feasible for most programs, but it also must have sufficient specificity to ensure standardization and rigor of training. Noelle reminded the group that the taxonomy applies to programs and training, not individuals.

Gary shared his experience creating a taxonomy with one of his graduate students. The project required a significant amount of time and work, and he recommended that rather than dividing the workload across GSC members, it may be more effective to identify one or two members who can dive deeply into the project and act as the experts. Noelle agreed with Gary’s recommendation, and she agreed to take the lead considering that she is most familiar with the taxonomy and CoS’s expectations. She emphasized the urgency of the taxonomy initiative, as the group taxonomy seems to be less developed than the taxonomies of other specialties and the
Taxonomy must be completed before other important initiatives can begin (e.g., reaching out to training programs). CoS is in the process of developing a liaison team to standardize language across specialties, and she plans to work closely with them to learn from the efforts of other specialties who have already finalized their taxonomies.

Noelle plans to meet with Misha and Vinny before the next GSC meeting to finish the taxonomy. They plan to present their results for feedback at the next GSC meeting. Once the taxonomy is complete, the Council can shift gears to modify the Qualtrics tools and engage in outreach with training programs.

The meeting closed with an update on the budget proposal. Gary shared that they presented the proposal to the AGPA Executive Committee, who acts as a surrogate when the board is not in session. They approved the proposal, and Gary asked Noelle when the funding would be due. Noelle plans to discuss the logistics of receiving and documenting the funding with Misha before the next Council meeting. She hopes to provide more specific expectations afterwards.

The next meeting will be on Monday, July 25th, 2022 at 1 PM EST. The Council will continue to meet on the last Monday of each month.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie White, PsyD
Secretary