Group Specialty Council Minutes  
November 29, 2021

Present: Noelle Lefforge, President; Eleanor Counselman, Secretary; Kendra Jackson (ASGW), Nina Brown (Past President), Gary Burlingame (AGPA President-Elect), Molyn Leszcz (AGPA President), Darryl Pure (ABGP President).

Excused: Tony Sheppard (IBCGP Chair); Misha Bogomaz (Treasurer)

Noelle welcomed Kendra who will represent ASGW on the Council. Introductions were made.

There was discussion of vacancies on the Council that to be filled. Nina urged that the COS rep be on the Council, preferably the President as most other specialties are represented by their President on COS, to ensure ongoing communication. Noelle volunteered. A motion was made, seconded, and passed (all vote yes, except Noelle who abstained), to appoint her as COS rep. Nina noted that while the COS has no authority over getting recognized as a specialty, they have a lot of wisdom that will help when we resubmit.

The current taxonomy needs to be revised and submitted to the COS. Noelle and Nina will work on a draft and send it around to Council members for comments, hopefully in January.

Noelle drafted a call for nominations for the vacancies which was reviewed and approved during the meeting. Noelle will distribute the call for nominations to all Council members to distribute on affiliated organizations’ websites. The deadline for nominations will be on December 17, with elections occurring by email so that elected officers can assume their positions on January 1, 2022.

A budget discussion followed. Noelle developed a spreadsheet of payments around 2016 for the petition. There were dues to COS of about $2100 for the period of 2016-2021; $15,000 supported a professional writer, and $1500 supported a copy editor. The question of whether we should have our own account was explored. Misha checked with two other specialties and learned they did not have separate accounts. Noelle recommended that we keep the account within the supporting organization (Division 49), and request that the funds be delineated so that the Council has primary decision-making authority over funds designated for Council use.

Then a projected budget was discussed. Gary noted that both he and Noelle paid GAs for specialty work and so going forward there should be a line item for that support. Several Council members indicated that Division 49 should pay at least half of the annual budget because the recognition of the specialty resides within APA/psychology primarily. There was discussion. Overall, there was recognition that the funds previously spent would likely cost more for the next petition, and funding is needed for additional labor support because it is unrealistic to task the Council President with the entirety of the work to develop the next petition. Wondered if there could be some fundraising among Division 49 Fellows. Noelle will work on drafting a budget proposal to submit to supporting organizations. The proposed budget will be distributed electronically to Council members for review and approval. The goal is to get this done before the Division 49 midwinter meeting near the end of January in hopes that it will make it on their agenda.

There was an update on Group Practice Guidelines. AGPA’s Science to Service Task Force is working on an update that is well along. Kendra said that ASGW has been working to update its three sets of guidelines. APA Division 49 is in favor of shared guidelines. Gary suggested that
Division 49, ASGW, and maybe ABGP could review the Science to Service draft. Noelle has reached out to AGPA Group Practice Guidelines Leadership to initiate a meeting.

Nina said she thought it important that training guidelines should be kept separate from clinical. Noelle wants the guidelines to align with other groups’ guidelines as much as possible, but also be specific to psychology as required by APA.

Noelle and the other members thanked Eleanor for her seven years of service on the Council.

There will be no December meeting. Our next meeting will be Monday, January 31, 1-2pm ET. Meetings throughout 2022 are scheduled for the last Monday of the month, 1-2pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor F. Counselman, Ed.D., CGP, DLFAGPA
Secretary