



Association of Medical School Psychologists

The Voice of Psychology in Medical Schools and Academic Health Centers

Section VIII, Society of Clinical Psychology/Division 12 of APA

MINUTES of the June Phone Conference

Wednesday, June 22, 2005

Board Members Present: Barbara Cubic, Jeff Baker, Barry Hong, Cheryl King, Jerry Leventhal, Lynn Peterson, and Danny Wedding **Absent:** Ron Rozensky, Rick Seime, Steve Tovian, and Carl Zimet

Open Section

A. Review of Agenda

Roll call was taken and Dr. Leventhal discussed the planned agenda.

B. Election Results

Dr. Cubic announced that the newly elected AMSP officers for (Terms beginning 1/1/2006) are as follows:

President-Elect, Start of the 6-year Presidential track, 1/1/06-12/31/12

John Linton, Ph.D. who is currently the Vice Chair of the Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry at West Virginia University of Charleston.

Treasurer, 3-year term, 1/1/06-12/31/08

Patrick Smith, Ph.D. who is currently Professor of Family Medicine and Assistant Professor of Psychiatry & Human Behavior at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine where he directs the Health Psychology Fellowship Program.

Member-at-Large, 3 year term, 1/1/06-12/31/08

Lisa Opipari-Arrigan, Ph.D. who is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases at the University of Michigan Medical School.

The newly elected Board members have been notified of the election results and have been asked to participate as observers at the upcoming Board meeting at APA and on future phone conferences to facilitate a transition.

The individuals who ran for the Board but were not elected have also been notified of the election results and encouraged to continue to remain active on the behalf of AMSP.

C. Transitional Planning

Dr. Leventhal discussed a transitional plan for the next 6 months as he ends his term and Dr. King begins her term as President to facilitate a smooth change in leadership. There was discussion of whether enough AMSP Board members would be at the Division 12 meeting in San Antonio to permit a face to face AMSP Board meeting. That prospect remains unclear. Dr. King plans one or more conference calls in January 2006 to get her administration off to a good start. Dr. Leventhal indicated that the process of setting an agenda could begin in the December 2005 conference call. Additionally, he plans to routinely include a "Transition Issues" section at each Board meeting or conference call from this point forward. With respect to the

Division 12 San Antonio meeting, Ms. Peterson indicated that rooms for AMSP Board members had been contracted at the conference hotel, but she will check into correcting that.

D. Name Change for AMSP

The Board discussed the recent exchange of e-mails on the list serve regarding the proposed name change from AMSP to the Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers. The impression of the Board was that to date most members expressed support of the name change or brought up issues for discussion but that there did not appear to be strong opposition. However, it was noted that nearly half the members do not subscribe to the AMSP list serve, and so they remain unaware of the Board proposal and of the subsequent on line discussion that has occurred.

Dr. Leventhal indicated that he would send out an e-mail to other members not on the list serve regarding the proposed name change to solicit additional feedback prior to having the membership vote on the proposed name change. Additionally, he will send a note to the AMSP list thanking members for their comments and inviting others to address the issue. It was agreed that once these steps are taken, we'd be well-positioned to hold an on-line allot re the name change proposal.

E. Listserv Subscription Rate

Problems with the AMSP listserv were discussed. Nearly half the subscribers are not AMSP members and nearly half of AMSP members do not subscribe. Thus, the listserv is presently not an effective route for communicating with the entire membership. The need for a one way announce-only list serve was discussed. This list would be one to which all AMSP members are subscribed with a guarantee that list traffic will be low volume. Dr. Baker will check with APA rules re listserv operation to define the conditions under which AMSP could create a second list of a one-way announce only nature. Dr. Leventhal asked Ms. Peterson about the possibility of adding a field to the membership database to show whether members subscribe to the AMSP listserv. Another possibility is to conduct a drive to get members to sign up for the current all to all list. Drs. Leventhal, Baker, and Ms. Peterson will follow up.

F. AMSP Activities at APA

The Board established a time for a meeting at APA (7 p.m., Friday, August 19, 2005, with dinner to follow) to conduct its semi-annual face to face meeting. The meeting will follow the Division 12 Social Hour at which time Dr. Leventhal will present the AMSP Distinguished Teaching Award to Dr. Nadine Kaslow. The AMSP Board dinner is planned for 9:00 PM, and Ms. Peterson is exploring restaurants that can offer us a private room. Discussion also ensued about the importance of encouraging Board members and the general membership to attend the AMSP Business Meeting at 3 p.m., Thursday, August 18, 2005, as well as other AMSP programs at APA. At the Business Meeting, each Board member will present brief comments on his or her area of Board activity. Newly elected Board members will also be encouraged to attend the Board meeting and to participate in all other AMSP functions at APA. Dr. Leventhal reported that he has discussed with Dr. Rozensky the possibility of meeting with Springer to seal the agreement between Springer and AMSP re JCPMS' relationship to AMSP.

G. National Conference Planning

The tentatively planned dates for the AMSP national conference continue to be September 7-9, 2006 in the Washington DC area. Dr. Seime has now submitted a draft proposal for programming at the conference and Board members were encouraged to review this proposal carefully and provide Dr. Seime feedback. Dr. King emphasized the need to make on-line discussion about conference themes and arrangements a high priority, focal task. The Board also discussed whether other members, including those who ran for the Board but were

not elected, could be solicited to assist with the conference planning. This option will be discussed further with Dr. Seime as he was unable to be on tonight's call. Dr. Leventhal will send a "hold-the-date message" to all members.

H. Update Regarding the Issues at Allegheny General Hospital

Dr. Leventhal indicated that he continues to be in communication with Russ Newman at APA regarding the issues at Allegheny General Hospital which center around whether a psychologist can be in the leadership position for psychiatry departments. Dr. Cubic indicated that it is critical for AMSP and the American Psychological Association to take a strong position which supports psychology in light of a recent decision at the American Psychiatric Association Convention by their Assembly to urge their ApA to develop a position statement emphasizing that chairs of departments of psychiatry or behavioral medicine should be physicians who have completed an accredited psychiatry residency.

I. Participation of Students and Early Career Psychologists in AMSP

The Board again discussed whether it would be advisable to add a student member or early career psychologist (e.g., Postdoc) to the Board. The Board had a general discussion of ways to involve and meet the needs of students as well as to increase membership. This issue will be discussed further at the next phone conference. It was agreed that a newly elected Board member will be encouraged to get take a lead role in shaping AMSP practices relating to trainees, including clarifying the web site in that regard. Dr. King will move this issue forward.

J. Announcement

Dr. Wedding informed the Board that Dr. Rozensky's mother died. Dr. Cubic will send a condolence card on behalf of the Board.

The next phone conference will be on Wednesday, July 27, 2005 at 5 p.m. EST.

Respectfully submitted:

Barbara Cubic, Ph.D., AMSP Secretary