

IPI Diversity Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, December 1, 2017

Present:

Patrizia Pallaro, Chair

Norma Caruso, Andi Pilecki (Stud rep)

1) Minutes from previous meeting approved

2) Patrizia shared that there was a lot of interest in our committee at a recent faculty meeting

3) Discussed and finalized mission statement as follows:

Psychoanalytic thinking is relevant to the world we live in. Raising awareness of bias, prejudice, racism, and homophobia needs to be incorporated into IPI's offerings. IPI can foster an atmosphere of openness and acceptance where learning about diversity issues takes place. Important areas of study at this time are defined as how acknowledged or un-acknowledged diversity affects:

- the patient-psychotherapist relationship;
- group working in organizations;
- IPI's organizational structure.

4) Possible short-term tasks of committee

*Norma suggested that we host a lunch meeting at either the upcoming February or April IPI conference to invite the IPI community to give feedback about what they'd like to see in terms of diversity issues being addressed at IPI.

*Patrizia said that Janine is looking into having Kirkland Vaughn as a presenter during an IPI weekend.

*We can work as a committee on developing diversity-focused weekends. Patrizia wants us to remember that IPI begins planning weekends 2 years in advance.

*Andi suggested that, in addition to a lunch meeting, we design a survey to distribute to the IPI community to get a sense of what people are interested in with regard to diversity.

5) Thinking and acting together as a committee

*Through our discussion about a possible survey, we were struck by how complicated it can be to even have these conversations as a small group, and reminded of the need to slow down, open up space, and think together as a committee before jumping into action

*Patrizia made the point that it is important to balance thinking with action, and shared that IPI had focus groups in the past, one of which gathered feedback about diversity, but that this thinking was not followed up with action.

*We decided that it would be helpful for us all to have some time and space to think about potential survey questions, and that we can email one another ideas and discuss at our next meeting.

*We discussed further elaboration of the mission statement, with Norma clarifying the role the committee can play in generating discussions about diversity that IPI members can take back into their respective organizations and communities.

6) The Division 39 conference will be held in April 2018 in New Orleans, the theme of which is "Ghosts and Guardians", and the key note presentation will explore the clinical implications of the legacy of slavery in the U.S. This is the weekend before the April IPI weekend. Even if none of us can go, we can look into the speakers presenting there as potential presenters for future IPI conferences.

7) Final thoughts

*Andi will look into LGBTQ analysts/therapists as future presenters

*Patrizia suggested that Pratyusha Tummala-Narra may be a future speaker.

*We could follow the model applied at recent IPI Ethics Conference for a possible weekend that focuses on diversity – Mostly in-house speakers presenting cases in which themes of diversity are drawn out and discussed explicitly.

8) Next meeting

*We thought it would be helpful at this early stage in our committee's development to meet on a monthly basis. Next meeting date TBD.