

International Psychotherapy Institute
Steering Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 12.00pm–1.00pm

MEETING MINUTES

Attending: Charles Ashbach, Caroline Sehon, Patrizia Pallaro, Suzanne St. John, Karen Sharer-Mohatt, Anna Innes, Jane Garbose, Carla Trusty-Smith, Michele Reed, Sue Cebulko, Ana Maria Barroso, Michael Kaufman

1. Appointment of minute taker: Jim Poulton
2. Minutes of last meeting: November 13, 2019 –
 - a. Minutes approved, with one change Patrizia suggested. She will edit the minutes with that change and send it to Anna and Caroline.
3. Matters Arising [Website, ad hoc cttee, Core Pgm & #7 below]
 - a. Caroline asked that we ask faculty and members to update their member pages – we need more pictures on our website, more information about who the faculty are. We need to help site visitors understand why they should come to us.
 - b. An ad hoc committee met to discuss ways to improve GAM Group training. The group consisted of Charles, Jim, Patricia, Suzanne and Caroline. The recommendations from the meeting will go to the ICTC. There were concerns raised that the group leader training needs to include teaching about online GAM group leading, and that the training needs to be expanded. More information about this will be forthcoming
4. Executive Administrator's report (Anna)
 - a. Anna thanked everyone for working ahead of time so she could be away from the office for 2 weeks. She said we've made progress for automating things, to save time. E.g., confirmations can be sent directly to people from the website when they register. We've also moved to online evaluations, and automatic delivery of the CE certificate.
 - b. Suzanne asked about the process for paying her faculty dues online. She will talk to Anna to see if there are any bugs in the website.
5. Director's report (Caroline)
 - a. Summer institute dates
 - i. Caroline said we're looking at first week in June. She'll get back to us as soon as she has the exact dates.
 - b. International Courses – Two kinds of international initiatives
 - i. Those external to IPI – innovated and operated by David and Jill. They operate autonomously – apart from IPI's governance and structure. David and Jill are free to invite anyone to participate, i.e., faculty within and apart from IPI. Examples are the programs in China and Russia.
 - ii. Those internal to IPI – also innovated by David and Jill. Between March and September 1, there was nothing operationalized, no programs internal to IPI. But there was thinking about the adult China course, and for the Child introductory sampler course. Currently, there is only one program that is an internal international program – an adult

psychotherapy course in China over two years that is managed by a company in China, which has contracted with IPI. This is chaired by Pat, and has been discussed at faculty meetings. It includes a 5 day in person class per year, with a year long academic track, along with consultation groups that meet weekly over the academic year. The student in China who chooses to participate in this pays a lump sum. The Chinese company pays IPI, and IPI does not pay any IPI faculty for teaching. This is a financially attractive opportunity for IPI. There is also the possibility that the Chinese company can repurpose the recordings for other teaching they would do in the future, so long as IPI faculty sign waivers permitting the initial recording. IPI must also approve any video content subsequently. The Child program has offered a couple “samplers” aimed at recruitment with the hope of potentially starting a program next June. And there is some interest from the Russian group to do something similar, though not as extensive. There is also some interest from Greece and other countries. David has been appointed by Richard Zeitner and Caroline to be the chair of the new international centers.

1. Michele expressed some concern that IPI is becoming so big. Sue said she understands the concern, but also what we’re seeing is that people who are involved are really involved and it may or may not require more faculty in the future. Jim said it sounds like a similar manic expansion of IPI like we’ve seen in the past, but that it also appears to have some advantages for IPI. Michael said IPI feels like a different organization than the one he originally joined, with the use of distance learning and leaving our connections to where we started. Charles said it’s worthwhile to observe that as we expand internationally we are suffering a decrease in the Core program. He said we have to recognize that the investment of energy outside of our system means we don’t have as many people trying to recruit new students and to meet our immediate needs. It feels like we are being lifted up into a stratospheric level where we’re going to be looking down on interpersonal contact. Suzanne said she thinks the faculty is suffering as well as the students, and the faculty feels they are spread too thin. Sue described her experience in the China program. She said that the four IPI faculty who went to China are still very involved, but she’s not sure what the faculty concerns about this program are. Patrizia said this ties into her concerns about funding and fees. She wonders how the board could have approved this on their own without telling the rest of the faculty from the beginning. Caroline suggested we need more time to talk about this. We’ll discuss it again at the next SC meeting.

c. Marketing Outreach w/Charles – will discuss next time?

d. Weekend Conferences (2020-2022)

- i. We have weekends scheduled that were described in a separate document Caroline sent. She is working on two additional weekends to complete the next 2 years. There was a weekend suggested in the ad hoc committee about GAM group training that we devote a weekend to groups.

6. IPI Fund-raising and faculty dues (Patrizia) – will discuss next time?

CE credits & faculty involvement affected by possible Core Program curriculum changes

7. Faculty Development Committee report (Michele)
 - a. Michael Kaufman recused himself for this portion of our discussion. Caroline summarized the multiple inputs received on two prospective faculty; taken together, the findings did not support faculty appointment of either applicant. The SC thought about ways to sensitively communicate this decision to these individuals, and Caroline will send a letter to them. Caroline and Michele (Chair, FDC) will meet to develop an approach to provide each applicant with the option to meet with their FDC advisor for one meeting so as to verbally communicate the reasons for this decision, and to refer them to faculty who can further discuss specific areas of concern raised for each applicant.

8. Date of next meeting: January 8, 2020

Respectfully submitted by Jim Poulton