

## **IPI Steering Committee Meeting October 14, 2020**

**Recent weekend on racism.** Caroline expressed thanks for everyone's work at the recent weekend conference.

**Minutes.** September 9 minutes were approved as presented.

### **Administrator's report**

Administration has been very busy with classes starting and the October conference, for which we offered CME credit for the first time. The consultation course will start this Friday. Anna has been very busy and unable to respond timely to requests in some cases. Her alternative email address, [annainnes@mindspring.org](mailto:annainnes@mindspring.org) is no longer valid. Please use her IPI address, [annainnes@theipi.org](mailto:annainnes@theipi.org), for everything. Caroline encouraged us to manage our expectations and not expect responses to routine matters in less than two weeks. If programs need something new or unusual, send the requests to Caroline and Anna for review, rather than assume they will be taken care of automatically.

Caroline thanked Michele Reid for creating and circulating the faculty bios on Paul Bosco and Charles Ashbach. Bio for Flora Barragán is forthcoming in November.

### **Director's report and discussion**

**1. Status of board nominations.** Deadline extended to October 8. We now have 3 nominees: Jim Poulton, Norma Caruso, Steve Morris. Goal: election completed by the end of October. Simple majority will govern. Patrizia is collecting bios and personal statements. Thanks extended to Patrizia and Anna for their work on this.

**2. Committee meetings.** Caroline plans to attend all IPI committee meetings, one time in order to gather greater understanding of developments, and to lend support.

**3. Committee and program leadership transitions.** Caroline asked Committee and program chairs to plan well ahead of time for leadership transitions. Group discussion: People can feel trapped in a role, and overly identified with "their" program/committee, which works against a democratic process. Our handbook, which Michele and Patrizia are creating, says that terms are "at least two years." The terms of faculty reps to the board are three years. Karen and Pat had completed their terms.

**4. Potential Beverly Greene conference.** The committee agreed with the idea of inviting Beverly Greene to return for a presentation on feminism and psychoanalysis. Caroline suggested her as another member of the board. There was warm support for this idea.

**5. Follow-up from racism conference.** We want to keep our momentum going on this issue. Ideas for next steps: (a) create an e-book to mark our work on the issue; (b) have a post-conference seminar on readings about the topic; (c) resume our "year of" series and use themes of racism, sexism, discrimination, and/or focus on the idea that these problems are based on defenses that objectify the other. Whatever we do could be ongoing. Diversity committee will continue working on the ideas.

## 6. Finances

**a. Revenue from the racism.** Current estimate around net \$6,000 but not yet calculated (may be less/more). We have applied for a \$6K grant. These numbers don't reflect background expenses such as administrative time, however.

**b. Future expenses.** Jason Aronson has been funding the e-books project. He also pays 75% of Meloni's salary and paid for her recent bonus. His support will eventually end and we will need to cover these expenses ourselves. Major expenses are anticipated, e.g., salaries, more administrative support, digitizing records, and the diversity scholarships. David is working to monetize the e-books project. This project and the town hall meetings, that have used the ebook contact list, have attracted many people and have yielded substantive enrollments.

**c. Budget** for the current academic year is forthcoming.

**d. Federal PPP loan.** We received \$20K. We have until May to apply for loan forgiveness. We would probably qualify. Discussed the ethical issues involved in retaining the money versus repaying it. We agreed to continue thinking about this. Caroline will recommend to the board that we take some time to think further and see how our finances go before we decide whether we would return funds.

**7. Advertising local events on a national level.** There was a request from IPI Salt Lake for national to advertise a Salt Lake event using one of the national contact lists. We have no policy about this because the issue has never arisen before. The request came at a time when enrollment for the IPI weekend on racism, which was to take place just a week after the SLC event, was low and expenses were high. After checking with the board, Caroline gave permission, but is concerned about setting a precedent in the absence of a policy and a more comprehensive approach to planning. In addition to the issue of competition, advertising creates background overhead for national. Should national charge a small fee for this service, say 10% of the local revenue, or a percentage of the revenue that comes only from enrollments generated by national's advertising? On the other hand, this percentage could be construed as a double tax on faculty, and net revenues from local events in SLC and Indianapolis pay for scholarships for students who might not otherwise participate in national programs. National also offers scholarships but this is not generally known. We need more discussion on the local and national levels to establish a policy.

**8. Supporting new students.** Jane G and the welcoming committee send advance emails to new students offering to serve as contact people, and then they reach out during the weekend to make contact. Jane also sends a follow-up email. The committee tried a new approach during the recent weekend: a half-hour gathering for new students. Other ideas: offer a gathering for new students after an event; invite them to attend the monthly informational session; GAM group leaders identify people who seem motivated and contact them. The economic dimension of recruitment needs to be discussed ongoingly.

Submitted by Steve Morris