Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

6/7/2021

In attendance: Karen Farrell, Robin Hilsabeck, Rick Seime, Victor Molinari, Julia Phillips

1. Discussed Robin’s ideas for next year’s CoS initiatives. She identified two foci: (1) managing overlaps between specialties, and (2) supporting efforts to make board certification more relevant across all specialties, such that it is expected for all psychologists in the same way that it is expected in neuropsychology. Victor agreed that the second idea is also taking hold in geropsychology, especially among ECPs. Karen noted that the VA and military have structural policies that promote board certification. Rick liked the first idea, as well, especially to develop a culture of support and cooperation between specialties. Further, the first initiative lines up well with the recommendation from our May 22, 2021 quarterly meeting to create a task force to address issues related to overlapping competencies between specialties. Victor noted that both of those initiatives could also come from ABPP and encouraged thinking about how we can uniquely work on the initiatives as CoS. Rick suggested that we work collaboratively with other organizations, as well as work to get members engaged on the Council of Specialties in these initiatives. Julia suggested a survey for CoS members to get feedback on these two initiatives and ask for any others that members might propose – she will draft this in surveymonkey and send to EC for feedback. It was noted that we should also ensure all Specialty Councils have updated their taxonomies and CoS continues collaborative communications regarding updated taxonomies. Considering other initiatives, Rick also suggested that EC review the orientation manual to update it and integrate it with website materials. Doing so also offers the opportunity to ensure our mission/activities as stated in the manual and on the website are consistent with CoS’s recent foci/activities. We also might consider how to use updated communication approaches e.g., infographics, short videos, social media. Karen highlighted Toni Minniti’s talent with such communications. EC members noted support for Robin’s two proposed initiatives, as well as for gathering feedback from current CoS members on ideas noted above. It was also noted that we should be mindful not to overextend or overwhelm while CoS members finish their taxonomies during pandemic times.
2. Discussed the election cycle for 2022 and two vacant positions, secretary and president-elect. Robin will send email to CoS to encourage self-nomination after the survey on initiatives goes out.
3. Discussed ways to outreach to Specialty Council representatives who have been absent from CoS recently. Karen will reach out to current reps who were absent at recent meetings and follow up with contacts she has already made regarding absence of representation Couple and Family Specialty Council.
4. Karen, Rick, Toni, and Ron had a productive meeting with Jeff Baker, Executive Director of APPIC, to identify ways to collaboratively work on taxonomy initiatives. It was decided that Rick will make a presentation on behalf of CoS in collaboration with Toni Minniti (CRSSPP) during the APPIC August Board Meeting on the taxonomy and highlight practical steps for engagement with internship programs to use taxonomy language. Further, Ron and Rick will review the APPIC Universal Postdoctoral Program directory with an eye toward how programs use taxonomy language. Following that review, they plan to meet with Wayne Siegel, Chair of APPIC’s Postdoctoral Committee, to identify collaborative ways to move forward with promoting taxonomy usage amongst postdoctoral programs. Robin will be invited to join these initiatives as President next year.
5. Discussed the need and feasibility of hiring a part-time administrative assistant on an hourly basis to help EC members, Victor proposed a budget line for such a person to be hired by the President. Karen knows a retired part-time administrator who has excellent organizational, technological, and interpersonal skills who may be interested and a good fit. The President would have funds allocated on a budget line and could approve use of the funds on an as needed basis. As Rick moves out of EC role, we also need to determine who on the EC will communicate with webmaster Bonnie Palmer what edits are needed on the website.
6. Toni Minniti is checking on ability of APA to host CoS in person meeting in November.

Respectfully Submitted by Julia Phillips.