

Psychology of Relationships Interest Group (PORIG)

Minutes of the Australian Psychological Society – Psychology of Relationships Interest Group May 15, 2008, 10:30am-11:36am

PRESENT: Ross Wilkinson, Barry Fallon, Zoe Pearce, Gery Karantzas, Torrey Orton, Kylie Murphy, Melanie Zimmer-Gembeck, Terry Bowles, Neil Welch

APOLOGIES: Julie Fitness, Alex West

Minutes accepted as accurate with the exception of the date which was amended.

BUSINESS ARISING: Ross replied to Sevgi Guney informing him that he could apply for the POROG thesis award. The award conditions have also been amended so that award winners are strongly encouraged to present at the conference. According to the APS board of directors, PORIG could not enforce that award winners had to present.

REPORTS:

Chair (Ross Wilkinson): Sarah Callejah was interested in setting up a sub-group on sexual issues within PORIG. Ross forwarded Sarah's email inquiry to all committee members for thoughts. The committee felt there was no need to create a subgroup, but could include interested sex researchers and therapists as part of the group. A call could be put out in the newsletter and for the conference asking people to submit ideas of interest and for discussion on the topic of sexual issues. Ross encouraged Sarah to put forward a forum for the conference.

Ross informed the committee that the APS was in the process of restructuring colleges. Ross will attend the national interest group meeting later in the year and hopes to find out more about the developments in college restructuring. Ross asked committee members to raise with him any issues that they would like discussed at the national interest group meeting.

Secretary (Gery Karantzas): Previous minutes sent out to all committee members. Gery to correct date of the minutes

Treasurer (Neil Welch): No change in balance.

Newsletter editor (Torrey Orton): Torrey made another call for items for the newsletter. Gery to re-send his piece. Ross would send through to Torrey a note about the online registration for the conference being available. Ross also noted that Sarah Callejah may have been willing to submit a piece to the newsletter. Ross will forward Sarah's contact details to Torrey.

Web editor (Melanie Zimmer-Gembeck): Melanie noted that the website was up to date and asked committee members to forward to her any information that needs to be added to the site. Ross noted that the conference information was not easy to find so it was worth adding a link

from the homepage to the conference site. Zoe noted that the link to the conference proceeding template was broken and that this would need to be updated.

State activities co-ordinator: Role is yet to be fulfilled, however, Torrey expressed an interest, but would need further information on the position. Gery to forward a brief on the position.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Progress with Journal: Ross asked Terry about relationships journal progress. Terry said that he had ongoing contact with Nicolas Voudouris and others from the APS office. Terry thought that the APS was not keen to generate any more journals at this time. The APS itself is examining the state of its own journals given that they are not easily located on databases, their distribution is not widely accessible, etc. Terry also noted that there is a proforma about developing journal which includes a proposal that must be submitted to the APS. Only then would the APS consider the journal but would ask the proposer(s) whether the editorial and administrative team could deliver a journal of high quality with longevity. Terry suggested that issues of quality and longevity should be carefully considered by the committee. If the journal was organised by the interest group, then this brings in issues regarding the lifespan of the interest group. Barry raised the point that the interest groups were developed to deal with 'current/timely issues' and when interest wore thin, the interest group could be dissolved. There would need to be some permanence about the editorial board/organisation of the journal in which case the journal may need to sit outside the APS. Ross thanked Terry for his input and thought it important that the committee think about these issues for the next meeting. He further suggested that the issue may be worth discussing in person and wondered if holding a meeting about this matter at the conference would be worthwhile. Terry suggested that we could ask the APS to assist with funding a national meeting of the executive and spend half a day discussing important issues for the group where one could be the journal. Ross asked for committee members to consider this activity, possible dates and the formation of a working party for the next meeting.

2008 Conference: Both manual and online conference registration options will be provided to registrants. The APS has now formalised its levels of assistance for conferences. Our support from the APS for the conference is deemed level C – online and manual registration and cancellations, supplying of delegate lists and name tags. The charge is reasonable and the interest group will take up the services of the APS. Ross will forward a manual registration form to committee members who then need to forward their forms to Karen Butler. The decision regarding committee member conference attendance remains in place. Committee members do not have to pay for the conference but will pay for the dinner. Committee decided to slightly increase conference price and to increase the dinner cost in line with food and hiring increases. As a result, the early bird fee will be increased to close the gap between early and late registration fees. Neil thought the gap as it stood was too large. Early bird fee will be set at \$180. A half a page advertisement has been booked with InPsych to appear in the June issue. A request was also made to IARR to put a link about the conference on their website. Have not heard back from IARR as yet. Zoe suggested that some clear guidelines be put forward for keynote speakers regarding expectations of abstract or conference proceeding submission to help the editor. Ross suggested it would be worth asking keynotes to submit abstract by the end of June and submission of proceedings should occur in line with the time frame for all presenters.

Other PORIG activities: Gery asked if people had thought about possible PORIG activities for the coming year. Neil said that he spoke to people in Adelaide but there was nothing concrete as Adelaide were unsure as to what we could provide. Neil thought that Marita McCabe could provide a talk on sexual functioning or Julie Fitness on hurt feelings and forgiveness. Zoe had not received any specific feedback from people in Queensland as yet. Zoe suggested that PORIG could conduct a joint activity with QUT in Queensland through the visiting scholars' program at QUT but the details of the program have not been confirmed. Melanie checked with Griffith for the same program, but no one in PORIG's area of interest was coming. Committee decided to carry-over this discussion into the next meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- No other business

Meeting closed 11:36am. Next meeting June 25th, 3pm.