

## Minutes of SPAR Section Annual Meeting

June 21, 2024

Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario

**Participants:** Elaine Clark, Annabel Cohen, Margaret DeCorte, Marnin Heisel, KellyAnne Little, Juanita Mureika

### **Summary:**

#### ❖ **Welcome and Introductions:**

Those who were able to remain for the SAM following Karen Cohen's talk were welcomed and thanked. It was noted that there were a number of conflicts within the convention schedule requiring others to leave, however a quorum was declared.

#### ❖ **Approval of Agenda and 2023 SAM minutes and monthly meetings:**

Since all minutes of meetings are distributed to all members of SPAR, it is assumed that they are approved given that there have been no objections.

#### ❖ **Membership and Financial Report**

SPAR currently has 61 members, 4 of which are student members, 38 are CPA Members, 12 are Honorary Life Members, and 7 are CPA Fellows.

SPAR has a current balance of \$3062.96. From that, we anticipate deductions to renew our Zoom account, reimbursement for gifts and plaque for Karen Cohen, and reimbursement for local arrangements for our meetings in Ottawa.

#### ❖ **Nominations/Election of Officers**

It was agreed that the current co-chairs should remain in office, however it was felt that a larger executive would be good for optics for the Section, as well as providing more "hands on deck" for special projects. Accordingly, KellyAnne Little was appointed by acclamation as Student Member, and Elaine Clark and Margaret DeCorte were appointed by acclamation as Members-at-Large.

### ❖ **Summary of Current Activities**

The factsheet on Retirement was approved prior to last year's Convention, but since it was posted on the CPA webpage during the summer, it was not advertised. We are hoping that it is now receiving the traction it should have. It can be found under "Workplace"

[https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Publications/FactSheets/FS\\_Retirement\\_Final\\_EN.pdf](https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Publications/FactSheets/FS_Retirement_Final_EN.pdf)

Following the SPAR survey of provincial Registrars regarding retention and storage regulations for psychological files, SPAR requested that there be a harmonization of time limits for the sake of uniformity across Canada. This request was denied because each province is bound by provincial regulations, not national ones.

Data collection for the current survey of provincial Registrars on numbers of psychologists serving the public in each province is still in progress, however preliminary numbers suggest that most provinces have low psychologists:1000 population ratios, with the exception of Alberta and Ontario, both of which license Master's as well as doctoral clinicians. It would seem that most psychologists have generic practices rather than type of client specific ones, and the rural/urban distribution is also unclear. Analysis will continue as more responses are received.

### ❖ **New Projects?**

Given that the process of retirement for psychologists has requirements that are unique to the profession and the individual provinces, it has been suggested that a factsheet on Retirement for Psychologists would be an appropriate project for the Section.

The possibility of advocating for a tax credit for seniors for engaging in leisure activities which enhance health has been discussed. We are exploring how and to whom to advocate for this benefit. KellyAnne has provided us with an excellent proposal to use.

We would be able to open a portal on our Section webpage where we could store interesting articles, back minutes, etc., for the members' reference. Alternatively, we might decide to investigate developing a newsletter again.

❖ **Other business**

We expressed our thanks to Karen once again, for her very instructive and inspiring talk. We will urge her to write up her thoughts so that we can share her points with the full Section since they were so relevant to the retirement process.

Congratulations were extended to Annabel Cohen on her appointment as Chair of the Department of Psychology at UPI!

Thanks were extended to Dawn Hanson, Elaine Clark, and Margaret DeCorte for their contributions to the 2024 SPAR activities.

Thanks, too, to KellyAnne for recording this discussion in vivo.

❖ **Adjournment**

Marnin moved to adjourn the meeting, and the group moved to Milestones Restaurant for a group dinner.

Submitted by: Juanita Mureika, SPAR Co-Chair