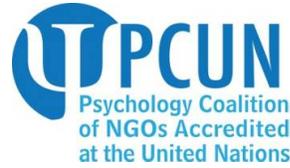


(Approved) Minutes
Monthly meeting of the PCUN
Psychology Coalition at the UN
Thursday, 18 October 2018, 10:15 am
CUNY, 365 Fifth Ave, room 6304, NYC



Present: Walter Reichman (President, SIOP), (David Livert (SPSSI), Jen Mount (Secretary), Mat Osicki (SIOP), Tanvi Shah (IAAP), Florence Denmark (ICP/IAAP), Sowmya Kshtriya (ICP, ATOP), Leslie Popoff (ATOP), David Marcotta (IMCES), Elizabeth Kloner (ICP), Janet Sigal (ICP), Elaine H. Olaoye (ICP), Cagla Cobek (ICP), Whitney Smith (ICP), Andrea Stephaich (ICP), Akhuti Patel (IUPSYS), Priyadharshiny Sandanapitchai (SPSSI), Ayorkor Gaba (APA), Angela Shen (ICP), Maya Godbole (SPSSI), Nina Vorster (ATOP), Jon Despirito (ATOP), Rashmi Jaipal (APA), Judy Kuriansky (IAAP), video conference guest (please provide spelling)

1. **Welcome.** Walter Reichman opened the meeting at 10:15AM welcoming the group as his first meeting as President. (a) Agenda and minutes from September 20th meeting were circulated. (b) Walter introduced our guest from the United Nations, Anton Botha Member (c) member introductions.

2. **Anton Botha discussion.** Anthon provided the group with his personal and professional background giving a brief history of his time growing up in S. Africa during apartheid, his transition after secondary school to the UK and his professional development beginning in the UK civil service community through college and his path to his current role with the United Nations.
 - a. The state of the UN today: Challenges: (a) Peace keeping missions in recent years have gone from rapid growth to decline, budgets cut from security council donors. (b) Domestic front: Push for nationalism, resulting in less collaboration and multilateralism, this is becoming a global trend.(c) Refugee crisis within Africa, and from Syrian crisis. UN has been unable to work at the source of the refugee crisis, due to lack of resources and allowance.

 - b. State of the Union today: Positive shifts: (a) The Secretary-General António Guterres, recently adopted a mental health agenda for UN staff, making this a top priority. (b) Tackling climate change is becoming a growing topic within the UN system. (c) Increasing Gender Equality globally is a top priority for the Secretary General.

 - c. Opportunity for Psychology and PCUN: When reaching out to UN departments it is important to have working knowledge of the philosophy, dynamic, and current state of affairs. Be sure to ask what PCUN can do to assist them in achieving their mandates. Find out how we can support their missions and support their success. (a) Reach out to HR Management Division and offer to collect data, provide research statistics, offer to assist

with training individuals who have been tasked with carrying out the Mental Health initiative in support of staff. (b) Reach out to the newly appointed UN Ombudsman, Ms. Shireen L. Dodson of the United States. Find out what her current challenges are and ask if PCUN members can provide her with support. Her bio and contact can be found here: <http://www.un.org/en/ombudsman/ombudsman.shtml> (c) UN Volunteer Programs are a way for students and professionals to contribute to the UN missions. More information can be found here: <https://www.unv.org/> (d) Reach out to UN Women, or Gender Special Assistant within the Sec-Gen. Office to see what their current priorities are focused; regions and topics, then position our side events and statements in support of their agenda so that we can be a resource for their teams. <http://www.unwomen.org/en> (e) Keep in mind that the UN has strict guidelines for pro bono work. (f) When building a network of contacts within the UN remember to acknowledge our ECOSOC status and any other relevant affiliations to mitigate resistance and obstacles to entry.

3. **Some Questions, Comments, Responses:** (a) Q: how much input was there from IO Psychologists when developing the new mental health agenda? A: None. Input came from Medical services, MD and Clinical psychologists. The perception of Psychology outside of the psych community is very different and still taking shape. (b) Q: How can we assist with vicarious trauma experienced by UN staff? A: The UN Peace keeping operations and environments were established with a military mindset and framework. It can be challenging to change the culture and structure of how the groups operate. (c) Q: How can we better connect ourselves within the UN? A: Build an inside network of support. (d) Q: Is there a way to prevent trauma and burnout for staff? And is there substantial support for employees facing burn out or substance abuse? A: The UN is looking to see if there are ways to assess resilience through the selection process. The larger missions are staffed with counselors to address this. Perhaps PCUN could offer to collect data in support of these issues. The ICC is also looking to develop assessment tools for pretrial process.
4. **Minutes.** The minutes of the last PCUN meeting on 20 September 2018 were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes after update made: Approved by acclamation. Jen will resubmit the final draft for record.
5. **Committee Reports:** No committee updates to share since June meeting. No Treasury report updates.
6. **ECOSOC Accreditation:** Vote Affirmed.
Task Force established for ECOSOC: Walter, Jen, Corann, Janet, Roxanne, David.
7. **Announcements:** This was our last meeting at the CUNY Graduate Center. The next 2 meetings in November and December will be held at the Salvation Army: 221 East 52nd Street, near corner of 3rd Ave.

- a. Judy shared a flyer invitation to the event on October 18th at 6pm:
“Discussion and Film Screening on Mental Health: Jean Vanier”

8. Adjourn. Walter adjourned the meeting at 11:57 am. Our next PCUN meeting is November 15, 2018, at the Salvation Army.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Mount