

Final afternoon session: Institutions (Chris and Art)

How can CHTP institutions and agencies collaborate in resource sharing, marketing; faculty, student, and professional development; career innovations, etc.?

Pull ideas together and see what we're going to do about it. Two kinds of organizations, the kind that throws out ideas and the kind that does something about them: the Council for Humanistic and Transpersonal Psychologies' mission is to act. How to proceed from here?

Evolving mission statement: Begin with an initial list of what we want to do. Symposium is to group people together who will help get these things done.

Propositions and ideas from Chris, Art, and the group, to be put into a concrete action plan:

Things that came up today (to start us off):

Clearinghouse for books, journal articles, published and unpublished papers that have ideas for all of us. Annotated references on a central list site would be wonderful to have.

A network of clinical supervisors, kindred spirits. Would include sites to work as well as supervisors.

Faculty mentors: list of faculty who would serve as mentors for students at institutions where there was not an appropriate mentor for their concentration. Good idea to have that kind of exchange, in addition to informal mentoring. Independent studies with faculty from other institutions. This can be crucial for a dissertation (function as interpreter and expert in material).

Research projects: several possibilities: collaborate together on research projects. Many of the larger projects are not going to be done unless we join forces across institutions. Many of these projects require grant support. Having a meta-institution behind a given research project may bolster funding.

Methodology: interesting point to explore further. What sorts of developments can we come up with together?

Curriculum: idea of designing courses is something we are trying to do, push the envelope—but again each reinventing the wheel. Need to share ideas better and push this thing forward a lot faster and further. In addition to designing curricula we could collaborate on teaching courses. Develop joint courses that students from several institutions could join in.

Key theme: transfer credits for students to go between institutions. For example, transfers from masters to doctoral programs. Courses at one institution would transfer for credit someplace else. Benefit for everyone. Need to work that out.

Communication: (Meta): recurring theme is to design ways by which we can stay in touch and keep this conversation going: electronically or live. Both are important to explore. Website is a tremendous contribution to this cause (thanks to Josh and Skip). Go to website, click contact us and send whatever you want to send. It will appear on the website. Live meetings: need to figure out what we make of what has happened here today. What is the benefit of doing this? Design could be around pods of themes, how will we be able to articulate and create our common goals from these threads?

Other schools: relatively small group here, compared to the size of the field, which is also relatively small. Disappointing, even though other schools are supportive of our work. It would be good to figure out if there is a better time to meet so more people could come and contribute. Questions: Whether we meet again, when, and where.

Common ground: a unifying theme for who we are. Glen's talk was a wonderful way to get us started. Would like to see us do more of it. People pointed out that unifying theme can end up being too superficial. Diverse particularities—how are they united? Unities that are not pablum. That can be articulated. Growth as a key theme. Not simply talking, we're walking, and we're interested in growth. What is it that holds us together?

Band organizations together and form synergy, symbiotic relationship amongst our institutions. Relegated to the lunatic fringe in a society that doesn't spend its resources on us. Make the most of the resources we do have, work together.

Art: where are the synergies and energies that are in this room?

Conceptual grids overlaid on this list of action items:

Issue: more statisticians? Why privilege that model in this conversation? If we're looking at the significance of quantitative models, and power that Maureen brought up, then we need to look at the quantitative economic structures that are underlying. Talking about an economic investment. In most fundamental sense we spend resources in the present in order to garner more resources down the line.

First level: quite possible. Energies around this meeting taken back out to our spheres of influence. Summarize stuff/options on the website. Schedule another meeting, have resources to do that. This meeting could have been self-supporting. If there's energy around more meetings, that can be done.

Next level: what can be done with our financial and leadership resources (sweat equity). Some things we can do with resources that are readily available. Some things are going to require major investments, from institutions that we represent, also going after grants—getting set up to get grants. Go back to leaders of our institutions and ask for their

investment. Web based possibilities discussed in this meeting: having meetings, big investments.

Noticed trajectory over the course of today: started out looking broadly at issues philosophical/epistemological—brainwork that reaches out to other institutions. Got more practical as day went on, focusing more explicitly on issues that relate to Transpersonal psychotherapy. There is perennial tension between deep theoretical definitions and the practical nitty-gritty of getting out there and getting something done. Maybe we also ought to be reaching out to other professions. Start by nourishing profession that we've got. Delimited a number of ways individuals and programs could collaborate and make Transpersonal psychotherapy more accessible to society.

Discussion

Rosemarie: Infrastructure to support grants: ITP, for example is like a wall. There are so many other needs in terms of money, developing support for an infrastructure to go after grants is difficult. Need a spot person who tracks where and what grants there are available. Sharing resources around that would be a great boon.

Curriculum: Sharing here, the best thing would be to see syllabi. In fact, that is probably one of the most valuable things to see. Send around the cutting edge syllabi (in your professional life).

Other professional field: What does it mean to be a transpersonal educator? Apply principles that are near and dear to us—if actually had a degree in transpersonal education—how would that look bringing into the classroom in a practical hands-on way?

Chris: West Georgia has a grant guy.

Art: SSU has some of these resources too. In terms of grants, SSU looking at developing contracts with agencies, earn enough through contracts to cover their tuition. Look at possibilities behind contracts.

Mike: West Georgia has been buying films/tapes for the last 40 years. A lot on 16mm. Some on cassettes. Digitalize this stuff, make it available. One school could buy it and put it into a loan library so all schools can use it. Gypsy course: cross-cultural course where students from different schools can come on a trip to another country like Mexico, France, no reason not to do China.

Zeno: Stats: would like to get to transcendent stats, if possible. Move past stats and get to the economic model. Address problems from our perspective, but articulate in a way that we can move forward to a more powerful area.

Andre: Does the website make money? Reasonable to charge? Investment that might produce more resources.

Victor: Website: Gestalt! People submit articles, columns. Cumulative index, site is searchable. Not aware of a humanistic counterpart. Link with other journals, archives, etc. need to build in the website maintenance.

(lady from JFK): If we want to increase involvement of faculty, adjunct faculty, and students, offer continuing education units for attendance, or training hours if in a practicum experience. Make this an attractive option for a weekend.

Victor: Send suggestions in to someone in a week. Chris: yes, send ideas to his email or to Josh during the next days.

Mike: Oral histories (audio) of humanistic founders. There is technology to make these available—digitize. A treasure in terms of giving the history right from the view of the people involved. Rollo, Bugenthal, etc.

Victor: Transcripts (hard copy) might be desirable for website.

Zeno: Concerned that the webmaster will get overwhelmed. Others can pitch in/have skills. Also there are technologies out there that allow people to instantly post, decentralizing the network. Willing to volunteer. (Victor, Matt, David). Theory of what we're trying to accomplish.

Matt: Come out of here with concrete working committees: faculty to faculty, student to student, web site, faculty mentors, etc.

Chris: People can volunteer for these things over the next days and weeks.

Colette: Some subcommittees exist: membership, and others.

Art: Need a new set of officers for the steering committee.

Chris: Put on web, where to volunteer, people can decide where their energies would be best spent.

Colette: Membership outreach has always been important.

Chris: Faculty exchange, mentoring, curriculum sharing, developing courses; transfer units; supervision, sites for professional practice, research grants and collaborative research, student to student collaboration, student council, etc.

Andre: Go national. International could be in the future—setting the standard now. Go to a European conference?

Skip: Agreed that an international committee would be appropriate. Russia, China, others are eager to work with this material.

Chris: Communication, education, research and practice—these are four centers such that if we could make progress on these specific areas, we would accomplish a great deal toward our goals.

Victor: A less awkward acronym?

Discussion on evolution of mission and vision

Rosemarie: Membership = organizations. How do you know if you even belong?

Art: If you belong to a member organization then you're a member.

Colette: Different classification of membership: Organizations and individuals. And service agencies can join. Range of memberships have been discussed, but not yet formalized.

Aftab: Process comment: many of us are talking about our life-work, some are embarking on what might be their life work. Given those stakes, feel a measure of depression in the room. Suggests that our process right now is not engaging the places where this endeavor holds stake or juice for us. Something about the way we're calling forth our future that isn't grabbing us. However, wouldn't be here if it wasn't important.

Getting away from Maureen's point from last night: power, marketing, corporate heads, etc. Find ourselves like salmon swimming upstream. Not because of our inadequacy here, but because of where the resources are going, a huge spin happening, wears me down in the sense of depressed. On the other side I appreciate the effort that we are trying to start with ourselves and put that out there. Get to a level that Maureen proposed before we can no longer get there.

Skip: Question about whether or not we are deep in the juice of what we're here to reflect about. Essence is not the same for every person. Raise the question: what is really deep about what brings us together? The most important things we could say to each other in this little bit of time.

Victor: Think and feel that there is a lot to be depressed about what's going on today, but not here and now and feel energized and considerably more energized than he thought.

Candice: Word that came up for me is "confused." Confused about what to do next. How long has this conversation been going on? How long does it take for stuff like website and membership to happen. I'm here looking for the kindred spirits for what I plan to do.

Colette: 2002 a group at IONS started work on the mission statement; finalized a year later. 2003 webpage discussions, now up and up for a year. Symposium a year ago and now we're here.

Aftab: Psychology is of enormous importance to society. Our mode of discourse is not on the news channels. Legal, political, medical discourse, yet, but not our frame, even when something like Columbine High happens where our discourse is necessary. If we get near it, it will be cognitive-behavioral. Post-positivist approach is incredibly important. Our numbers shouldn't distract us. They don't mean that what brought us here is not important. Need a process for the images that are going to guide our future. Somewhere between an organizational business meeting and a visional process. Tease those apart, something more vitalizing and passionate can arise.

Zeno: Last couple of years have been transformative for me, with involvement here. Have found a home. Have been coming at this from a point in my life where I felt there was a need, when in fact that need has been met. I walk with one foot in empirical world and one foot in Humanistic/Transpersonal/Existential world. I'm where I'm supposed to be and hope to be able to carry this further in the future. Sense that we're always in battle state as professionals. It's the wrong attitude, always as the underdog. This is the brains of psychology, the real cognition of psychology. Where does psychology head as a whole domain?

Depression is a journey into the dark side, a lot of positive stuff in there. Humanistic psychology with indigenous perspectives can ...move a lot as whole?

Art: Depression and confusion are usually a good sign for me, because pretty soon things become clear. Profound suggestion to separate business meeting out. Relevance and sanity, yet getting the business done that needs to be done. Sounds a little like "stone soup".

Candice: The discipline is still young, psychology only around 100 years old. Change is so slow but in 10 or 20 years, this will be old hat and there will be something else new. Reflection about perspective may be a nice resuscitation from depression.

Art: Sense of heterogeneity...epistemology crystallized and spread out in a lot of other disciplines. Gather under the banner of psychology, but I feel closer to colleagues in other disciplines than some of those in psychology.

Chris: Maureen's comments, 30-years flash forward. Future of this discipline? Willing to put energy into preserving the discipline so that the students can have a career that is as rewarding as mine has been.

Jessica: Thanks.

(SSU student—Lisa?): Fear around small numbers here this weekend. Seeing so few local students is distressing. It's a pathetic turn out. People don't know about this? What's going on with marketing this? That is the key to moving forward and getting the message out. There's a lot of importance about paying attention to that piece.

Aftab: Suggest that we engage in two gestures: involved in a great transmission here, goes beyond 100 years, but part of much larger transmission. Gesture to the event planners, and some gesture to the students that holds the depth of why we're here. What a huge difference it makes that the students are here; the wisdom of the organizers to provide that space and invitation to the students for their participation.

Victor: Roman example, 800 years is a long time for something to endure. Humanistic Transpersonal Psychology could have a similar longevity, conceivably.

Photo ops with organizers and students.

Adjourn for dinner.