

**Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of the
Student Special Interest Group (SSIG)
Illinois Physical Therapy Association
Wednesday, March 27th, 2024
Via Zoom**

	P/A		P/A
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		APPOINTED LEADERSHIP	
Peter McManus, SPT, SSIG President	P	Kristen Ernst, SPT, SSIG Communications Liaison	A
Eleni Papastratakos, SPT, SSIG Vice President	P		
Dana Dwyer, SPT, SSIG Secretary/ Treasurer	P		
Lizzie Bensussen, SPT, SSIG Special Events Coordinator	P		
Sy'Mone Bishop, SPTA, SSIG SPTA Director	P		

	P/A		P/A
MEMBERS & GUESTS			
Matthew Nicholas, Deputy Director, Staff Liaison to SSIG	P	Joe Hanley, PT, DPT, SSIG PT Advisor	P
Evan Kepner, SPT (Bradley University)	P	Kate Torbenson, SPT (Northwestern University)	P
Brandi Thomsen, SPT (Northwestern University)	P	Leah LoVerde, SPT (Bradley University)	P

P = Present A = Absent

I. Call to Order/Introductions

Peter introduced himself and welcomed all students to the 2024 IPTA Student Special Interest Group Annual Meeting. Peter spoke on his role as president and introduced the following SSIG Executive Committee, SSIG Leadership and Support Team

- Eleni Papastratakos, SSIG Vice President
- Dana Dwyer, SSIG Secretary/Treasurer
- Lizzie Bensussen, SSIG Special Events Coordinator
- Sy'Mone Bishop, SSIG SPTA Director
- Kristen Ernst, SSIG Communications Liaison,
- Matthew Nicholas, IPTA Deputy Director and Staff Liaison to the SSIG
- Joe Hanley, PT, DPT, SSIG PT Advisor
- Berenice Galvez-Soto, PTA, SSIG PTA Advisor
- Colleen Flannery, IPTA Executive Director
- Tina Frank, PT, MBA, IPTA President

Peter called the meeting to order at 7:26 pm.

II. Approval of Agenda

CARRIED

Peter moved to approve the agenda as printed.

III. Approval of the 2023 Annual Meeting on April 24th, 2023

CARRIED

Minutes stand approved with no corrections.

IV. Reports from Executive Committee Members and Communications Liaison

Vice President Report: Eleni reported how the IPTF helps to promote growth of the PT profession. Eleni reported that the IPTF has awarded \$ 51,000 in student sponsorships in 2023. Eleni reported three ways students can help fund the IPTF Scholarships: SSIG Annual #GivingTuesday Challenge; the GSU Networking Gala; and the IPTF Annual 5K "Walk, Run, or Roll" for Physical Therapy.

Secretary/Treasurer Report: Dana provided an explanation of the allocation of student dues for the IPTA. All student chapter dues go directly into the student sponsorship fund. This fund helps to support students to attend conference and leadership events such as the Combined Sections Meeting (CSM). In 2023 the IPTA sponsored 4 students to attend CSM in San Diego, CA (\$2,000); in 2024 the IPTA sponsored 4 students to attend CSM in Boston, MA (\$2,000). Dana reported on an event that the SSIG hosted, an online Zoom Trivia night which was supported by the IPTA who provided Amazon gift cards to the winning team. Dana also announced the plans for another Zoom Trivia event put on by the SSIG in April.

Special Events Coordinator Report: Lizzie reported on the SSIG Day of Service, “Timeless Fun for Everyone – Connecting Generations Through PT and Play” which encouraged all programs in the state to connect with their local community centers, skilled nursing facilities, libraries, retirement or 55+ communities and plan an event that connected generations. Lizzie also reported on the “Beyond the Books: Post Grad Paths Revealed” event that the SSIG hosted. This event centered around a virtual panel which explored the numerous opportunities available to students within the expansive field of physical therapy.

SPTA Director Report: Sy’Mone reported on the SSIG collaboration with the GeriSIG during a panel of PT and PTA students where everyone discussed the importance in the involvement of the younger generations in assisting and caring for the older generations and creating an environment where both can work in harmony. Sy’Mone also provided a report on student membership data. As of December 31, 2023 – we had 612 SPT members (minimal decrease from 616 in 2022 yearend) and 236 SPTA members (increase from 189 in 2022 yearend).

Communication Liaison: Kristen shared the successes of the IPTA SSIG social media pages including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter/X. She also shared that the SSIG Instagram page has increased their followers from 287 to 437 in one year! To stay updated on all events/activities that the Illinois Student SIG is hosting, follow the links below:

- a. Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/IPTAStudentSIG
- b. Instagram: www.instagram.com/IPTA_SSIG/
- c. Twitter/X: www.twitter.com/IPTA_SSIG

V. New Business - Motions

Short Title: Replace SSIG Bylaws with SSIG Standing Rules

CARRIED

I, Peter McManus, on behalf of the Student SIG Executive Committee, move to replace the Bylaws of the IPTA Student SIG, with the revised Standing Rules of the IPTA Student SIG.

Rationale: As an established 501c6 organization in Illinois, the IPTA must operate in accordance with applicable state law and under the federated model of the APTA. In 2021 APTA adopted changes in their bylaws, which in turn required all components to take action by 2024 on making their own bylaws consistent with the model language and content under a federated model. In November 2023, the IPTA Board of Directors approved the conforming changes to the IPTA Bylaws to meet the necessary edits required by the APTA. Nothing was changed regarding the intent of the Bylaws – only editorial, which included: a reorder of the bylaw sections to be consistent with the order of APTA’s; eliminating redundant statements that were previously addressed in other sections; defining member types vs member dues categories; and correcting proper names (i.e PTA Caucus vs PTA Council).

According to the APTA, “Chapters are encouraged not to specify the number and geographic boundaries of districts, or the names of special interest groups in the bylaws. The best place to maintain this specific type of information is in the Chapter’s policies and procedure manual or other type of operations document for ease of revision.”

- **Bylaws** are considered to be the constitution of any incorporated organization. Bylaws define the primary characteristics of the organization, how it operates, and the relation of the assembly and individual members to the organization as a whole.
- **Standing Rules** outline the procedures of the organization that are not included in the bylaws and must not conflict with the bylaws. They may be changed or amended without notice with a two-thirds (2/3rd) majority vote of the association, or a majority vote with thirty (30) days’ notice.

For the above stated reason, the Student SIG should operate under a set of standing Rules, rather than Bylaws - as the Bylaws of the Illinois Physical Therapy Association, are the only bylaws of our Chapter.

Short Title: Add Communications Liaison as an elected member of SSIG Exec. Com.

CARRIED

I, Peter McManus, on behalf of the Student SIG Executive Committee, move to amend the Standing Rules of the IPTA Student SIG, to include Communication Liaison as an elected member of the Student SIG Executive Board.

Rationale: In 2014, leaders of our Student SIG recognized the need to better connect student members with the IPTA. Via social media, newsletters and other communication platforms. During their September 4th, 2014 Annual Meeting, students voted to add the appointed position of SSIG Communication Liaison to their standing rules.

Since 2015 the student SIG leaders have appointed members to serve in this role for a term of 1 year. The responsibilities of this appointed position include, but not limited to: Compiling articles for the monthly SSIG Newsletter and submitting to Chapter staff by monthly deadlines. Monitoring the SSIG Facebook Community. Processing join requests for the SSIG Facebook Community. Contributing and submitting content to Chapter staff to be used on the IPTA Facebook page, Twitter, and LinkedIn presences, or any e-newsletter, as appropriate.

The responsibility of the Communication Liaison has only increased over the years, dedicating more time spent on monthly Student SIG initiatives. Rather than having an individual appointed to this position by the SSIG Board, the Communications Liaison should be an elected position by the student membership.

Short Title: Additional Responsibilities of the SSIG President

CARRIED

I, Peter McManus, on behalf of the Student SIG Executive Committee, move to amend the Standing Rules of the IPTA Student SIG, Section VI. Executive Board, with the following:

C. Officers

1. President – The President shall be responsible for preparing agendas for all SSIG and Executive Board meetings, preside at the meetings of the SSIG and the Executive Board, and shall prepare the annual report and any other reports as requested by the Chapter. The President shall serve as the designated spokesperson of the SSIG. The President will represent the SSIG at the Chapter's Assembly of Representatives, and meetings of the Chapter Board of Directors. **While in office, the President shall represent the Illinois Student SIG in meetings of APTA's Student Council.**

Rationale: In 2023, APTA established Councils, which are composed of component representatives who are selected or elected by APTA components for collaboration to advance the association. Councils are led by a chair and/or steering group members from within the council. APTA Student Council's is a national community of component volunteers tasked to promote member engagement in the association. Each APTA chapter and section or academy selects one representative to the council, for a total of up to 69 council members. Council representatives are also eligible to run for leadership roles within the Council. In April 2023, the IPTA Board of Directors voted to have the incoming Student SIG President serve as our component representative to the student Council. As the designated spokesperson for the IPTA Student SIG, the SSIG President who is elected by our memberships should also serve as our Representative to the Student Council.

VI. Open Discussion

Evan Kepner shared his experiences as a student representative from Bradley University and suggested that the incoming board makes plans to increase participation and awareness with Illinois schools outside of the Chicagoland area.

VII. Announcements

Eleni shared updates regarding the Northwestern University's Advocacy lunch scheduled for June 11, 2024.

VIII. Adjournment

Peter moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm.

CARRIED

*Respectfully submitted,
Dana Dwyer, SPT
Secretary/Treasurer (2023-2024)
IPTA Student Special Interest Group*

Approved by the IPTA Board of Directors during their April 17, 2024 meeting