

Minutes for the TOPSS Committee Zoom Meeting

January 22, 2024, 7:30 PM Eastern time

Participating on call: Terri Lindenberg, Virginia Welle, Natasha Alston, Michael Berndt, Stephanie Franks, Emily Polacek, Melissa Rogers, Jennifer Thompson, Emily Leary Chesnes, Aliza Epstein, Sue Orsillo

Unable to participate: Jenni Redifer, Hideko Sera, Frank Worrell

Welcome and Introductions

Virginia welcomed everyone to the call and TOPSS committee members introduced themselves.

Plans for Advancing TOPSS Goals in 2024

The Committee was asked to consider a proposal for completing some of the work needed to advance the initiatives on their 2024 workplan. Committee members agreed having assigned roles for work this year would be helpful and that knowing the timing of projects helps members to plan for and balance their overall workload. Staff will add descriptions to each of the potential assigned roles so members can see how much and what type of work is needed for each opportunity. A follow up survey will be shared for members to select their top preferred volunteer roles.

APA 2024

Terri gave an update on the three hours of TOPSS programming at APA 2024 in Seattle, Washington. One of the three sessions will focus on disability per the new TOPSS project on diversity. Terri has reached out to other potential speakers. Stephanie mentioned she has a connection to Temple Grandin if needed.

RFP update

The RFP to support teaching workshops has a January 31 deadline. Virginia gave an update on the January 16 webinar and members were encouraged to contact potential interested faculty members before the RFP deadline.

First Webinar of 2024: Planning

In 2023, TOPSS suggested holding quarterly webinars in 2024 for members and teachers. Late March, late May, August, and October/November were mentioned as possible months for webinars, to be 60-90 minutes on weeknights. Teaching skills, research methods, and the National Standards were mentioned as topics for the first webinar. Members of the standards working group were mentioned as possible speakers. An August webinar could focus on new teachers. The pending point person or point people on professional development can further plan these webinars.

Next TOPSS Calls/Meetings

The next TOPSS call is scheduled for Monday, February 26, at 7:30 PM eastern. Consolidated meetings are scheduled to be in-person/hybrid in Washington, DC March 22-24, 2024. Members should make travel plans as soon as possible.

New member orientation

A new member orientation was held at the end of the call for Stephanie and Mike.