

Michael Bernstein
Statement

I am honored to be nominated for SPSP's Treasurer. I have attended SPSP since my first year in graduate school, and I watched the organization grow and change over the last fifteen years. I believe my career experiences thus far prepare me well for this position and allow me to come to the Board with a unique perspective on the organization.

I am a research active faculty member at a primarily undergraduate university. Penn State Abington is a special place to do psychological science; our campus is a minority/majority campus (only 35% of the campus identifies as White), 50% of our students are first generation college students, and 40% of our students are below the poverty line. Our students often have not had access to high impact learning opportunities that our faculty can provide. Doing primary research and presenting at a conference is a world changing opportunity for many of my students. I have been impressed with SPSP's continued – and growing – dedication to student training and this is one reason joining the Board of Directors is so appealing to me. The development training offered to faculty and graduate students has been wonderful (and I'd love to continue in that vein) and I'd want to support efforts to continue and expand such trainings to undergraduates.

My administrative experience in the past ten years also prepares me for this role. I am finishing my second term as Executive Officer for the Midwestern Psychological Association, a large regional conference where my duties are centered on coordinating the MPA Council (our executive board), working with the convention manager, negotiating contracts, managing a large budget, coordinating with the Treasurer, working with the Finance and Investment Committee, and orchestrating many other aspects of the conference (e.g., working with the program coordinator, the program committee, the web team). Prior to that role, I served as the Program Committee Chair for both MPA and Eastern Psychological Association and served on the Program Committee for both conferences. I am currently finishing my second term as Chair of my department at Abington, a role which requires working with faculty in terms of schedules, advising, and other related activities. I also focus on student success (e.g., professional development, increasing retention, decreasing time to degree completion). Finally, I recently began a part time position at Abington as the Director of Research (we do not have a Dean-level position equivalent), and my role is to both publicize funding announcements and work with faculty who are interested in pursuing such opportunities. This requires creating a culture of grant seeking at an institution where prior grant funding occurred exclusively by faculty already primed to search for such opportunities. It requires getting multiple stakeholders on board as I not only have to interface with local administration at Abington, but also work with administrative offices from across the system that are not used to working with our campus (e.g., Foundation Relations, Corporate Relations, Office of Sponsored Research).

I believe these experiences prepare me to join the Executive Board, to coordinate with the behind-the-scenes staff who helps manage the budgets and finances of SPSP (e.g., the accountants, the CFO), and to offer my perspective as a faculty member at a PUI who values professional development trainings and opportunities for our members to see and share excellent psychological science.