

Membership Committee

Members Present: Susan Linn, Lawrence Goodridge and Zeb Blanton.

Board/Staff Members Present: Lisa Hovey, Don Zink and Mickey Parish.

New Members Present: None.

Visitors/Guests Present: None.

Meeting Called to Order: 3:07 p.m., Friday, July 24, 2015.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Lawrence Goodridge.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Membership continues to grow with approximately 1,000 new members since 2005. However, membership in Canada is dropping. One reason given that membership in Canada is decreasing is that there seems to be a general feeling that the specific interests and needs of Canadian members are not being met. It was noted that the IAFP Annual Meeting is still largely driven by issues that are of importance to U.S. attendees. Therefore, it was suggested that region specific symposia should be considered, as a way to increase interest from non-U.S. members.

It was also discussed that while membership is growing, the growth was occurring without any direct efforts from IAFP, and that there needs to be more effort at understanding why the growth is happening, including, from which countries and regions, and which disciplines and sub-disciplines within food safety.

Committee Action Items:

- A. Evaluate enhancements to the toxicology program to attract more toxicologists to the group.
- B. Investigating ways to better engage affiliates in attracting new members.
- C. One reason given that membership in Canada is decreasing is that there seems to be a general feeling that the specific interests and needs of Canadian members are not being met. It was noted that the IAFP Annual Meeting is still largely driven by issues that are of importance to U.S. attendees. Therefore, it was suggested that region specific symposia should be considered, as a way to increase interest from non U.S. members.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Request to have IAFP members (including students, industry, government, and industry members) submit short one-minute video testimonials. The clips would be screened for appropriateness and could be posted on the IAFP website and used in IAFP presentations.
2. Permission to investigate the development of a virtual affiliate to engage members and attract new members from remote areas.
3. Region specific symposia should be considered as a way to increase interest from non-U.S. members.

Next Meeting Date: September 2015.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:45 p.m.

Chairperson: Susan Linn.