Student PDG


Number of Attendees: 153.

Meeting Called to Order: 10:00 a.m., Sunday, July 21, 2019.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Catherine Gensler.

Old Business:

Outgoing Chair Mary Yavelak, gave IAFP announcements and reviewed board recommendations from last year. Incoming PDG Chair Meg Kirchner acknowledged and thanked outgoing sPDG officers for their hard work this past year. A review of all sponsored and co-sponsored 2019 sessions and highlights of activities available for students was completed. Mary addressed student feedback from last year’s meeting and encouraged students to talk to a PDG board member on ways we can better support students.

Lester Schoenberger reviewed the 2018–2019 sPDG Liaison program. The program has expanded to 22 PDGs and committees, facilitating direct mutual communication and support by assigning a student contact for the group to report back to our PDG throughout the year. Liaisons link the sPDG to other PDGs, facilitating symposia co-sponsorship, connecting students to PDG scholarships and events, as well as completing crucial PDG tasks and business. The 2018–2019 mentoring program made 47 matches last year. This year, at the time of conference, 34 matches had been made and more are counting. Both students and mentors can still sign up to be matched at the student booth.

3-Minute Thesis competition committee received recognition for their hard work. The committee would like to thank those who volunteered as judges for both the online and live performances. There were many excellent video entries from which five finalists were selected to compete in live competition over lunch. Both the people’s choice and the judges’ winners will be announced at the student mixer on Tuesday, July 23rd, 2019.

New Business:

Representatives from the Seafood PDG gave a brief informational presentation about careers in their industry and shared advice regarding choosing a career or “Does a career choose you?” PDG discussed how it plans to utilize IAFP connect in parallel with emails. A survey about how the PDG will use the platform will be sent to members following the meeting. Students were encouraged to visit the newly redesigned student booth in the exhibit hall (Thank you, Tamara and the IAFP Board!) to purchase T-shirts and stickers, sign up for a mentor and talk with PDG officers. The meeting concluded with a review of roundtable and symposia guidelines and an ideation session for potential topics for symposia or roundtables.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

We thank the Board for their responsiveness to our requests and their continued support of the Student PDG.

1. Recommend Minh Duong for Student Professional Development Group Vice Chair.

2. Recommend continuing a 2-hour PDG meeting length for next year’s meeting.

3. Because of a successful presale we recommend to the Board that we order a larger quantity of T-shirts and continue to work closely with staff on distribution at the Annual Meeting.

4. We recommend an additional student board member position to the Student PDG officer board that would represent international students.

Next Meeting Date: August 2, 2020, Cleveland, Ohio.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 p.m., Sunday July 21, 2019.

Chairperson: Margaret Kirchner.