Retail and Foodservice PDG


Board/Staff Present: Emilio Esteban, Ruth Petran, Didi Loynachan, and Dina Siedenburg.

Number of Attendees: 73.

Meeting Called to Order: 1:26 p.m. EDT, Monday, September 21, 2020.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Minh Duong.

Old Business:

Outgoing Chair Tom Ford provided the PDG with a call to order and his final thoughts as Chair. Tom Ford thanked Jay Neal, Suzie Hammons, Francie Buck, Eric Moore, and Minh Duong. Eric, Minh, and Tia provided introductions of their backgrounds and how they got involved with the PDG. Eric provided a breakdown of the anti-trust guidelines before guest speakers Don Schaffner and Ben Chapman shared their newly funded research projects on COVID-19. Don and Ben are developing a “network” that will allow for industry, academia, and government to share materials and resources with one another. The project will feature a microbiological aspect looking at SARS-CoV-2 survival starting with a bacteriophage at the BSL1 level and working up to the BSL3 with SARS-CoV-2. Eric provided an overview of minutes from last year and the group approved them. Approved symposia and roundtables were shared with the PDG and the times of the upcoming sessions at the Annual Meeting.

New Business:

Minh provided an update on student activities mainly focusing on the Mentor-Mentee program. IAFP Connect was discussed as a method of contact. Many concerns were voiced about participation levels not being as high when using Connect compared to email. Similar PDG leaders in during this meeting voice similar issues. One suggestion shared and agreed on by many was a way to link emails directly to the Connect reply. The ability to reply directly through email instead of signing in.

Tia provided an update on Journal of Food Protection’s call for specific topics. Jill Hollingsworth shared that she and a group were working on the “Food Safety Strategies for Supermarkets” one and they were planning on reaching out to the JFP group. No additional feedback on article titles or ideas were made during the meeting.
Eric shared a list of rejected proposals from IAFP 2020 and asked the group if any were interested in resubmitting and the availability of the IAFP webinar program in place of symposium/roundtable submission for the annual meeting. Then, proposal ideas submitted before the PDG meeting were shared. Glenda and Chris (from FDA), on behalf of Laurie, provided their proposal idea of the New Era of Food Safety for Retail. Julian Graham shared his idea on large-scale public events, illnesses, and temporary employees. Eric Moore shared his idea on ventilation guidelines to support the control of airborne viral agents and other novel ventilation strategies. Tom Ford shared his idea on mom and pop restaurants and how they have dealt with the COVID-19 pandemic stress on their business. Dale Grinstead, on behalf of David Buckley, shared his idea on disinfectant protocols and when to use them. Jill Hollingsworth, shared her idea on retailers’ decisions and adaptations over the COVID-19 pandemic and what they would do differently. The panel would include government to inform of guidance developed on COVID and academia to share outreach efforts. Finally, an idea from Sima Hussein was shared about food safety culture implications on audits and standard operating procedures and whether management pillars can impact food safety culture overall, it was suggested that this idea be combined with the topic submitted by FDA in an effort to provide industry insight and perspective.

The meeting was closed with Eric Moore recommending Tia Glave as the incoming Vice Chair. A link to the recorded webinar has also been provided: 2020 Virtual Retail & Foodservice PDG Meeting

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend approval of Tia Glave as the Retail and Food Service PDG’s new Vice Chair.

Next Meeting Date: July 18, 2021, Phoenix, Arizona.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:11 p.m. EDT.

Chairperson: Eric Moore.