**Foundation Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Seventeen (17) of Members Present:** Gary Acuff (outgoing chair), Alvin Lee (incoming chair), Tori Stivers, Kathy Glass, Joshua Gurtler, Celina To, Gale Prince, Ruth Petran, Dale Grinstead, Aaron Pleitner, Aaron Uesugi, Rachel Hazen, Kristen Butler, Tim Jackson, Jenny Scott, Cameron Bardsley, Steve Kenney

**Three (3) Board/Staff Present:** Lisa Garcia, Manpreet Singh, Wendy White

**One (1) Visitor:** Betsy Craig

**Number of Attendees:** 21

**Meeting Called to Order:** Wednesday, July 29, 7:30 a.m.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Joshua Gurtler

**<u>Old Business</u>**

Summary and Approval of previous year's minutes.

Due to previous year's minutes not circulated to members prior to meeting, the approval of minutes was deferred to next meeting.

**<u>New Business</u>**

**Financial Report:**

Lisa reported that the Foundation balance was over $4,000,000, a goal which Gary had set. It was rewarding that we hit the goal while Gary was still Chair. The expenses relating to the Annual Meeting for the Foundation will not come in until August. The investments have done well.

**Annual Meeting Fundraising Report:**

Lisa reported that (at the time of the Foundation Committee Meeting) the Foundation had raised $41,080 at the meeting + $20,000 match = $61,080 + $10,000 from the silent auction for a grand total of $71,080. The silent auction profit was down from last year's profit (2025 = $14,100). Thank you Fred Weber, Tori and David Stivers, Gary Acuff and Jenny Scott!

**Dependent Care Grants:**

There were 11 applications for the dependent care grant this year. Six of these grants were funded. There were two suggestions for increasing the grants, as follows: (1) Increasing the grant amount above the current $500 grant, and (2) offering more than six grants per year. Gary mentioned that a couple of people came up and thanked him for the help they received from the grants. Gary also suggested that even $500 can help these individuals.

**Estate Planning:**

We are currently waiting for a new IAFP Staff person to come on board to help manage this program. Estate planning initiative was drafted, with thanks to Jenny's leadership, and available to members. The document will be further refined when the new IAFP Staff is on board.

**Discussions on Future Funding Initiatives:**

Discussion on the Katie Swanson donation to be used for a "lab exchange" between students in a developing country and a developed country. Alvin also mentioned that the students could spend ca. 2 months in the host lab to learn new lab skills. It was suggested that we ask the Executive Board if the Foundation could do a dollar-to-dollar match with Katie's contribution to help better fund this initiative.

Gale brought up the idea of creating a travel grant specifically for state epidemiologists, because more burden is being placed on them with federal funding cuts.

Gary brought up the idea of creating a Professional Development Grant to provide training for industry personnel. Dale suggested that we could network with the Annual Meeting Local Arrangements to specifically target area-industry employees who could travel to the meeting from home (thus hotel accommodations wouldn't be needed). Manpreet suggested that, for next year (Kansas City, 2027), we could network with the Kansas State University Incubator facility in Olathe, KS (30 min. southwest of Kansas City, MO, K-State Food Innovation Accelerator: https://olathe.k-state.edu/research/food-programs/food-innovation-accelerator/). Gale mentioned that this would be especially beneficial for the cottage food industry. It was suggested that we could work with the state and local health departments to find suitable/interested industry participants. Gale suggested that this could be conducted as a free workshop on Saturday (or Friday) before the meeting, but it was also mentioned that this would *not* involve free registration for meeting attendance.

**Miscellany:**
Suggested creating two new positions:

A. Foundation Director/Assistant position to help direct the Foundation Committee, which would be a full-time IAFP Staff hire. Lisa said she has a candidate for this position. This person would follow up on many of the Foundation Committee suggestions and initiatives that could be managed directly by IAFP Staff.
B. The second position would be an IAFP Foundation member liaison to work with the Foundation Director to onboard new members, etc. The IAFP-member position would be a two-year appointment.

There was a discussion on ways to energize the student base for foundation fundraising activities, which the students could organize, which was also discussed in 2025, and a foundation subcommittee was previously developed for this at the 2025 meeting.

It was mentioned that we need more student mentors to assist with mentoring students during the year, but, more specifically, also mentors are needed for students who receive the Foundation Annual Meeting Travel Scholarships.

It was suggested that Gary might stay on the Foundation Committee (as Gale Prince did when he stepped down from Committee Chair), because Gary would continue to provide valuable insight and guidance to the incoming chair/vice-chair, as well as the rest of the committee.

Betsy Craig (meeting visitor), a small business owner, asked to be added to the committee.

It was mentioned that Gina Boorn is taking over for outgoing Andrea Belzer as IAFP Program Coordinator.

Thank you Gary for his dedicated multi-year leadership as Chair and having achieved a fantastic goal.

**List of Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

- No recommendations to the Board

**Next Physical Meeting Date:**
Wednesday, July 21, 2027, Kansas City, MO.

**Upcoming Virtual Meetings:**
October 16, 2026, 11:00 a.m. Central Time
January 22, 2027, 11:00 a.m. Central Time
April 23, 2027, 11:00 a.m. Central Time

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:30 a.m.
**Chairperson Name:** Alvin Lee