Name of Committee: IAFP Foundation Committee

Names of Members Present: Alvin Lee, Gary Acuff, Tori Stivers, Aaron Uesugi, Kristen Butler, Laura Strawn, Claire Murphy, Celina To, and Peggy Cook

New Members Present: Sara Engelhart, IAFP Foundation Director

Executive Board/IAFP Staff Present: Manan Sharma, President; Pamela Wilger, President Elect; Wendy White, Vice President; Maria Hoffmann, Secretary; Lisa Garcia, Executive Director; and Sara Engelhart, Foundation and Assistant Director

Visitors: Neil Bogart, Gale Prince, Timothy Jackson, Isabel Walls

Number of Attendees: 19

Meeting Called to Order: Friday, October 16, 2026, approximately 11:03 a.m. Central Time, via Zoom.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Sara Engelhart

Old Business:

The Committee reviewed the September 2026 meeting minutes. Claire Murphy moved to approve the minutes, Tori Stivers seconded the motion, and the motion carried without opposition. The Chair noted that earlier outstanding minutes had been approved at the September meeting.

The Committee revisited fundraising messaging following achievement of the Foundation's $4 million goal. Members discussed the need to communicate why continued contributions are important and to explain the Foundation's impact through scholarship support and future initiatives. It was clarified that the Foundation currently supports designated programs, including student and other travel assistance, rather than broadly reducing Annual Meeting registration costs. Members requested clearer information about spending, program priorities, and the balance between expanding funding and maintaining sufficient reserves.

New Business:

Manan Sharma provided an Executive Board update, including Affiliate engagement and upcoming Board discussions about awards, Annual Meeting presentation formats, and Committee appointments. Foundation Committee representatives, Alvin and Gary, were invited to participate remotely in the annual investment advisor update at the upcoming Board meeting. Lisa Garcia reported preliminary, unaudited Foundation financial results reflecting an approximately $344,000 increase in net assets, with approximately $356,000 in investment results and $100,000 in individual donations. Approximately $50,000 was spent on student travel scholarships and $20,000 on other travel scholarships. Final audited figures and a more detailed breakdown of program expenditures will be shared when available.

Sara Engelhart introduced her role as Director of the IAFP Foundation and Staff Liaison, including responsibilities for Committee communications, meeting coordination, and Foundation materials. She reported that an initial draft of the legacy and estate giving resource is being prepared for review by Tori Stivers, Jenny Scott, and the initiative group. She confirmed that Venmo is available as a donation option and that communication materials can promote its use. She also reported receiving preliminary guidance from the appropriate Missouri agency regarding the possibility of a raffle at IAFP 2027; event logistics and applicable requirements remain to be developed. Sara is developing an onboarding resource describing the

Foundation's mission, goals, and Committee expectations and will compile previously discussed funding opportunities for review.

Claire Murphy summarized student and young professional engagement ideas developed with Laura Strawn. The goal is to establish an early culture of giving rather than to generate significant immediate revenue. Ideas included a raffle featuring donated items at a student event, a possible "pie a professor or Board member" fundraising activity, broader outreach to encourage affordable or handmade silent auction donations, and prominent Venmo QR codes at events. Members discussed campus merchandise and other low-cost donations as potentially appealing auction items. Claire will circulate the written ideas, and the group will seek student feedback and consider feasibility ahead of IAFP 2027. The Committee also discussed reinstating a Student PDG representative or liaison. Sara and Lisa will review how best to approach the Student PDG and which leadership position would be most appropriate.

Sara reviewed prospective Foundation-funded initiatives identified in previous minutes: the Board-approved IAFP Latin America Food Safety Award, which still requires funding; travel support for state epidemiologists; an international student laboratory exchange or associated support for housing and materials; and professional development grants for industry professionals. Members will continue reviewing these opportunities and may establish smaller working groups to develop proposals. With respect to the Latin America Food Safety Award, Lisa noted that external sponsorship has historically funded professional awards, although the Foundation could choose to support one. Members expressed differing views on using Foundation funds for awards, noting the challenge of establishing ongoing commitments without sustainable sponsorship.

Members discussed whether the cash component of professional awards is essential to the value of recognition and whether a lower cash amount could make sponsorship easier. A related discussion addressed student travel scholarships, the importance of financial assistance for students who otherwise could not attend, and the additional value of recognition, mentoring, and networking. Some members suggested examining whether recognition opportunities could be expanded without proportionate increases in travel funding. The Executive Board is scheduled to discuss awards; the Committee will revisit the topic after that discussion. No changes to award amounts, criteria, or funding were approved at this meeting.

Members emphasized the value of testimonials from Foundation scholarship and grant recipients in describing the impact of giving. Sara will explore collecting recipient stories, and the Committee discussed the possibility of featuring a small number of past recipients and their subsequent career progress in future Annual Meeting communications or programming.

Numbered List of Recommendations to the Executive Board:
No formal recommendations were moved or approved for submission to the Executive Board during this meeting. The awards discussion and other potential initiatives remain under consideration.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, January 22, 2027 at 11:00 a.m. CST, Zoom

Meeting Adjourned: Friday, October 16, 2026, approximately 12:08 p.m. Central Time. Tori Stivers moved to adjourn, and Claire Murphy seconded.

Chairperson Name: Alvin Lee
Zoom Recording of the Meeting:
https://zoom.us/rec/share/6PbKFmYYcvUp5qCk_Z5kbZTw9xiz1vGo4Qzjr8MCPe3FHpV38gQzoqjTkIseR0pz.4sntb5Zk5d_QRrsw?startTime=1792166279000