

## Membership Committee

**Meeting Called to Order:** Sunday, 1:15 p.m., July 15, 2024.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Leon Gorris.

**Old Business:** The minutes of the last Membership Committee meeting (09 June 2023; virtual meeting) were adopted as written.

**New Business:** The committee considered the latest membership data provided by IAFP staff. The discussion focused on sustaining member numbers and possible initiatives to further increase individual membership overall and especially increase membership outside of the USA (which currently is ~75% of total membership). The number of sustaining members, which typically are commercial entities, has seen a gradual decline. Members suggested the possibility that also public entities (e.g., academic or research institutes; governmental bodies) might benefit from tailored Sustaining Members schemes. As for individual membership, the committee applauded the work of the Board to soon launch a tiered membership and conference cost schemes tailored to the relative income level in various countries around the globe. The committee assumes this tiered conference fee approach is implemented also for meetings outside of the USA. Membership numbers outside the USA may be improved by raising IAFP brand awareness of students and regional meeting attendees. Opportunities to increase overall membership numbers and to encourage consistent membership engagement (to reduce in/out membership frequently seen currently) were thought to be in recognition of long-term members and through multi-year membership options at reduced rates.

### Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. It is recommended that the Board considers an additional sustaining member category for public and not-for-profit entities, such as universities and research institutes, government bodies and other relevant organizations, that is tailored in terms of investment and benefit options. Eligibility criteria and benefits for this new sustaining member category as well as possible risks will need to be worked out.
2. The committee recommends a) that the Board increases its support to regional meetings and interaction with universities, for instance through offering a number of free membership vouchers or support to travel to Annual Meeting that can be used as awards; b) that the registration fee for members that are speakers/panelists at regional meetings are waved or significantly reduced (they are currently waved for non-members).
3. It is recommended that a) new ways are explored to visibly recognize long-term membership, for instance through providing certificates (e.g. for 5, 10, and 20 years) or even plaques (for 30, 40, 50y), mention in *Food Protection Trends* and on the IAFP website; b) that the Board considers introducing multi-year membership options (e.g. 3 or 5 years as the lower end and lifetime as the upper end).

**Next Meeting Date:** Sunday, July 27, 2025, Cleveland, Ohio.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:15 p.m. Pacific Time.

**Chairperson:** Leon Gorris