

## **Foundation Committee**

**Names of Members Present:** Gary Acuff (Chairperson), Aaron Uesugi, Laura Strawn, Tori Stivers, Kathy Glass, Alvin Lee, Joshua Gurtler, Aaron Pleitner, Zeb Blanton, and Kelly Stevens.

**Advisors Present:** Neil Bogart, Ruth Petran, Jenny Scott, Gale Prince, Tim Jackson, and Isabel Walls.

**Board/Staff Present:** Caio Carvalho, Pam Wilger, Mark Carter, Lisa Garcia.

**Visitors:** Claire Murphy.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Sunday, July 30, 7:33 A.M.

**Old Business:** Gary welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:33 A.M. ET. Introductions were made and Wendy White was appointed Recording Secretary. Summary and Approval of previous year's minutes – Kelly moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Ruth seconded, and it was approved. There were no additions to the current agenda, and it was approved.

### **New Business:**

#### **Financial Reports** (Lisa Garcia):

Financial Statements – Good year, last year (2024) with net \$500,000. Meeting revenue, August investments, travel scholarship expenses will determine how we land for the fiscal year 2025.

Investment Activity—This year, investments weren't quite as strong as last year but have been strong.

Budget for FYE August 31, 2026 remains much the same as last year.

### **Annual Meeting Fundraising Report:**

We raised more at the annual meeting this year than last, but we're still at a \$20,000 deficit due to lower-than-average pre-meeting giving. Almost \$60,000 was donated via the booth as of Tuesday night. This year, there seems to be an increase in the number of smaller donations, which is desirable to develop a culture of giving among our Members. The Student Travel Award volunteers for the booth did an excellent job, and we think there was an uptick in student donations. When the final numbers are in, we will determine the percentage of giving for attendees at the Annual Meeting and report back to the Committee.

Silent Auction raised \$14,100 this year (up from \$10,200 in 2024 and \$7,000 in 2023).

The photo booth wasn't a huge success this year, likely due to the absence of props. It was assumed that the photo booth we contracted would bring props, as it was indicated in advertising, but we will confirm that in the future.

### **Future Fundraising Ideas:**

Student Engagement Subcommittee—Neil (Chair), Laura, Claire, Kelly, Alvin, and Aaron. One idea is establishing a "Serial Donation" program to encourage small student donations (maybe collected at the Student Luncheon). If they collectively give \$100, it would be matched by a Member's \$900 donation.

2026 Foundation Booth Ideas – give special-colored beads (blue/aqua) for donations. The Sunday photo booth will probably do well in New Orleans.

### **Future Initiatives Status:**

Still working on the Professional Development grant; Board has approved, just awaiting the fundraising goal.

The International Student Exchange still needs work on logistics; Gary and Alvin will work on it more this year.

Dependent Care Grant – issued five grants for this year’s meeting (different awardees than last year).

### **Estate Planning:**

Brainstorming on how to increase visibility and discuss the motivations behind choosing to include the Foundation in estate planning. Consider a targeted mailing that includes a unique gift. We could ask someone that’s already put the Foundation in their estate to do a short video on what motivated them. We would like to have something printed and available for next year’s meeting. Pursue the development of a historical podcast which includes information on people that have left IAFP in their will or estate.

Established a subcommittee to work on ideas. Jenny (Chair), Gary, Zeb, and Tori volunteered.

### **Incoming Foundation Vice Chair:**

Alvin Lee has accepted the Board appointment of Vice Chair of the Foundation Committee, to succeed Gary as Chair before the 2026 Annual Meeting.

### **Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Consider including an IAFP historical topic in the Food Bites Podcast to include stories about past Members that have included the Foundation in their estate.
2. Consider asking the Bylaws Committee to change the Foundation Vice Chair and Chair terms from a 3-year term with an optional renewal to a 2-year term with two optional renewals.

**Next Meeting Date:** Wednesday, July 29, 2026, New Orleans, LA.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:40 A.M.

**Chairperson Name:** Gary Acuff.