



Candidate Leadership Guide

Thank you for your interest in serving the IFT community as a member of the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is comprised of a dedicated group of leaders who generously contribute their time and expertise to further the advancement of IFT's members, the profession, and the science of food.

Responsibilities

The Board of Directors engages in strategic thinking and planning to set the organization's direction, mobilize resources, and provide oversight to ensure IFT's progress in achieving its mission. The Board is responsible for cultivating a professional community committed to connecting global food system communities to promote and advance the science of food and its application. To achieve this, the Board of Directors upholds three impact areas in support of IFT's mission and on behalf of its members and community—support job-related challenges, address global food system challenges, and give visibility to what the future of food might hold.

Terms

- Directors serve staggered three-year terms aligned with IFT's fiscal year, September 1 – August 31.
- Those selected as a member of the Office of the President have a three-year commitment.
 - Year one as President-Elect
 - Year two as President
 - Year three as Immediate Past President

Expectations

IFT Board members are expected to collectively work in collaboration with staff to:

- Consider ways to increase member value
- Uphold its fiduciary duty including establishing the fiscal year and approving an annual budget
- Create an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming organizational culture
- Be active and positive supporters of IFT
- Come prepared for all meetings and discussions
- Actively and positively support IFT with your time and talent
- Hone expertise in environmental scanning, critical thinking, and resource allocation
- Apply leading-edge approaches to strategic thinking and planning
- Foster leadership development in self and others
- Serve as a communication champion for the organization
- Actively participate as Board liaison to assigned committees or task forces

IFT is committed to ensuring members have access and opportunity to contribute to their fullest potential. Diversity and inclusion are key to our mission to connect global food system communities to promote and advance the science of food and its application. Therefore, we believe it is critical to attract and engage a diverse population of members and food science professionals to lead IFT through Board service. The Board strives to achieve broad representation of membership demographics and multi-representational factors, including career stage, education, areas of practice type and setting (e.g., academia, government, industry, consultancy), broad global and cultural experience, and diverse special interests and expertise (e.g., food safety, regulatory, engineering, agriculture, sustainability, etc.).

Please see IFT's Commitment to Diversity for more information.

Time Commitment

Being a member of the IFT Board of Directors requires a commitment of time, talent, and expertise. It is critical that those seeking a nomination for the Board have support from their employer and colleagues regarding the time and financial commitment required.

By becoming a member of the Board of Directors, you commit to the following:

- Prepare for, attend, and actively participate in three Board meetings each year, FIRST, IFT's annual event, and regularly scheduled Board calls
 - In-Person Meetings (when able)
 - Board of Directors Fall Meeting – November
 - Board of Directors Spring Meeting – March
 - Board of Directors Summer Meeting – June
 - Virtual Meetings
 - October, January, March, May, August
 - Additional Board calls may be scheduled as needed
- Attend additionally selected educational programs and/or association activities
- Ability and willingness to serve as a formal or informal mentor within IFT
- Support initiatives and/or campaigns of IFT's fund development program

Competencies, Experience, and Expertise

- Experience with startups in the food space, including, but not limited to, strategy, governance, and markets
- Product development expertise
- Experience working in agriculture and sustainability
- Governance experience
- Senior industry management experience
- Mid-career leaders with governance experience
- Responsibility for organizational management and change
- Demonstrated leadership commitment, effort, and involvement with IFT, including committee, task force, section, and/or division involvement and program participation

Adoption of IFT Governance Task Force Bylaw Recommendations

In December 2020, eligible members voted on the IFT Governance Task Force recommendation to update the process for board candidate development, nominations, and elections. The recommendations were approved unanimously by the IFT Board of Directors at its November 2020 meeting. As the IFT nomination and election processes are outlined in IFT's Bylaws, the revisions to the election-related Bylaws also required a membership vote. The vote took place December 1–18, 2020.

One of the recommendations from the task force is to adopt an evaluation matrix to move to a competency and multi-representational balance model. The Leadership Development Committee has responsibility for reassessing the matrix annually. This recommendation provides clear responsibility for the Leadership Development Committee to analyze diverse competencies needed for the Board, identify gaps, and create a slate to fill current gaps that exist.

IFT's Office of the President, Board of Directors, and Leadership Development Committee have collaborated to identify competencies, experience, and expertise needed on the IFT Board of Directors and where gaps exist. Individuals who possess the competencies, experience, and expertise identified in this guide are highly encouraged to apply.