

# **IRE Academic Task Force Meeting 1**

**Monday Sept. 30**

**Task Force Members Present:** Jodie Fleischer, Andy Lehren, Mark Greenblatt, Nicole Carr, Jodi Upton, Dana Chinn, Ted Bridis, Alison Young, Mark Horvit, Chris Halsne, John Sullivan, Lisa Davis, Lisa Cohen, Maggie Mulvihill

**Task Force Members Not Present:** Kathleen Johnston, Emily Condon, Christine Valora, Katherine Frazier, Lawan Hamilton

IRE's new Academic Task Force held it's inaugural meeting on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Prior to the first meeting, our enthusiastic members entered 45 ideas into our living "ideas" document – and they have some great ones including: student chapters on college campuses, the need for improvement of course packets (content, accessibility, marketing, relevance), exposure of outstanding student work, networking/meetups, mentoring, consideration of collaborations for student awards, and creating an IRE member "speakers bureau" of those willing to guest lecture for college classes.

More to come on all of those as we deep dive into them at future meetings.

Our main focus at this meeting was an introduction of existing member services relevant to our students and academic members. Many members of the task force were not familiar with some of the basic services IRE offers – despite being active for many years. We will aim to identify tangible ways for IRE to improve its marketing of those services as we work in improve their relevance and accessibility.

Our discussion of student chapters was robust and had great interest from the task force members. They would likely serve as advisers to those chapters and are currently researching their own campus rules for creating a new student organization. We understand the need to treat lightly with this to make sure we have student interest, fulfil a set of defined needs (which we're outlining) and that these would not impose a significant new burden on IRE staff.

In the interest of being able to progress with this concept and develop it further, the task force is recommending the IRE Board take the following action at its next meeting.

**ACTION ITEM FOR BOARD:** Vote to authorize the Academic Task Force to oversee creation of five student chapters as a pilot program to identify the needs outlined above and best practices. Each pilot chapter would be developed and overseen by a member of the task force at their university. The task force will report back to the board on interest level, mission, and best practices as they're developed, with the hope of expanding the program to any interested campus in the future.

One additional item that may eventually require board action is a proposal to increase visibility of student members' investigative work by partnering with an existing newsletter that does just that.

Board member Andy Lehren is conducting outreach to gauge interest in a possible co-branding opportunity with the academic institution currently managing it and will report back.