Graduate Women International
Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

Board Meeting Minutes
29 July 2019, 13h, Uni Mail Campus of UNIGE

Attendees: Terry Oudraad (TO), Eileen Focke-Bakker (EFB), Basak Ovacik (BO), Katharina Strub (KS), Stacy Dry Lara (SDL). Apologies: Louise McLeod (LM)

Meeting called to order 13:34

1. **Points from meeting/transfer by previous Board:**

Details as per Board Transition meeting held 9am-12pm 29 July 2019. Brief introductions, rundown of current responsibilities and brief sights forward were given from the 2016-2019 triennium Board: President, Geeta Desai; Treasurer, KS; VP Membership, EFB; VP Advocacy and Education, Hazel Bowen; VP Governance, Rae Duff; VP Fundraising, BO; and Executive Director, SDL. Transition of Board was formally minuted to accommodate Credit Suisse and UBS change of signatory transfer procedures.

a) Financial situation in relation with Board 2013-2016 – SDL explained that this is Chubb Officers and Directors claim that the 2016-2019 Board has initiated with Chubb in an effort to recover a portion of the funds misspent by the 2013-2016 Board and Executive Director.

Actions: SDL to email Chubb policy to TO. SDL to inform Lalive, GWI lawyer in Geneva of the new Board.

The discussion centered around the question when to send out the letter of the intended claim to the NFAs; if claim does not proceed, then the letter is not necessary; Further discussion table until TO has had time to review the Chubb policy.

b) MOU with CFUW

The in-kind structure if the MOU needs to be finalized. The joint advocacy strategy must be defined clearly with specifically identified roles and implementation procedure/strategy. GWI Board must develop a full-scale implementation programme. All agree the board needs to form an implementation task force for the MOU; Turkey and Japan were mentioned as possible implementation task force members. TO to work with Grace Hollett on a cover letter for the MOU distribution to GWI NFAs. Regarding FinCom, KS informed that she met with Beverly Rhodes (CFUW) for preliminary discussion about FinCom responsibilities. TO reminded that the Assistant Treasurer represents FinCom and not her NFA.

c) Other issues?

No other issues were brought to the meeting.

2. **Nomination for Board vacancies:**

a) Legal & Governance (names: as of July 2020, Patricia Wesley Cole (BFWG), or Shaila Rao Mistry, (WG-USA) and Veena Bath (IFUWA)

Candidates were discussed. Candidates will be sent bio data form. After receiving bio data form the Board will continue the nomination discussion for VP Legal and Governance position.

b) Marketing (names Glenda Hecksher (FEMU) or Rachel Malek (Independent member Italy/CFUW)

Candidates were discussed. All agree that the decision must not be taken too quickly; better to make a calculated decision for both vacant VP positions rather than to appoint a candidate for the sake of filing the vacancy.

3. **Nomination committees**

a) Fellowships: SDL to add to the GWI Fellowship Committee website page and Committee listserv Fay Weber, WG-USA, and Dr Bettie Higgs, Independent Member as FelCom committee members.
b) Resolutions: Jaqueline Jacques (CFUW, Fr /Eng speaking): SDL to add to the GWI Resolution Committee webpage and Committee listserv Jaqueline Jacques,
c) Hegg Hoffet: Lilia Muggler from the Swiss NFA has withdrawn her Hegg Hoffet Convener candidacy. SDL confirmed that Jazmeira Cabrera from the Panama NFA is still interested in the Convener position.
d) Projects – no discussion.

4. **Board members attachment to the committees**

Board to Committee liaisons for the 2019-2022 triennium are as follows until further notice:

BO: Hegg Hoffet and Fellowship
LM: Project Committee and Education Committee
KS: Finance Committee
EFB: Membership Committee and Resolution Committee

5. **Issues /ideas from Conference**

a) Evaluation Conference

The office will prepare an electronic evaluation of the GA and Conference for distribution in the coming few weeks to all attendees via Survey Monkey. Notes for future: voting cards need to be different color – green, red and yellow for voting to make for easier counting.

Other areas for improvement to be discussed in a future Board meeting.

The 33rd General Assembly minutes will be distributed to the Board for revisions as soon as received from the minute takers and scrutineers? (Lorraine Isaacs (NZ) Claire Stein (USA)). After Board revisions are made, the minutes will be distributed to all attendees with a time limit for revisions. Then an electronic vote will be held with membership to approve the 33rd triennial minutes and post on the GWI website.

The 32nd triennial, Cape Town, minutes will be amended and distributed to the membership as amended. Then the office will run an electronic vote for approval in September. The cover letter will indicate that the 33rd triennial, Geneva, minutes are being finalized and will be distributed as soon as possible for amendments (with response time limit) then, voted on electronically.

b) Participant List

SDL to review 33rd triennial Terms and Conditions. If an opt in is required, the office will manage and opt in process; if no opt in is required the participant list will be distributed to all participants by March 2020.

c) Re-evaluation due formula

As per KS, after FinCom functional then dues formula will be re-evaluated. For now, the most urgent matter is to address those NFAs who have not paid. KS would like EFB to take over communications with NFAs who have not answered KS emails regarding paying their dues. KS reminded that it was voted on that the FinCom will make the dues payment plan. Review of NFAs who have not paid dues in 2019.

d) Resolutions – not discussed

e) Young Members: outcome of workshop

EFB confirmed that the Young Member Workshop ended up with 36 participants who showed much connection to each other. The YM made a committee to form a YM network and keep in touch; EFB is to have a Zoom call mid-September with the YM convenors to review their plan; they are going to follow an issue that pertains to GWI mission. EFB reports that the YM are enthusiastic now but will need continuous motivation; they want to be embedded on issues.

f) CSW 2020: Beijing 25+

SDL reviewed the UN ECE Review to take place for Beijing +25 in Geneva 29 October. GWI will participate in the 28 October Civil Society Organisation day; she will provide further updates. She reminded that CSW 2020 will not have a priority theme or agreed conclusions because the main focus will be on Beijing + 25. Other advocacy strategies will be discussed with the presence of the VP Advocacy and Education, Louise McLeod, who sent apologies for the meeting.

g) Membership of ECOSOC

SDL reviewed ECOSOC status rankings – General, Special and Roster - and GWI status is in Special Consultative Status since 1947. She reported that she filed the GWI ECOSOC quadrennial report May 2019 and that the report had been accepted by the United Nations and ECOSOC. The GWI ECOSOC webpages need to be revised to be more current; old materials need to be archived.

h) Bid for GWI 2022 GA/Conference

The Board is to create official bid and distribute the bid officially to all NFAs by mid-2020 no later than March 2020.

i) Update GWI-Website
- Translation Wikipedia Janice Jun Pan Hong Kong

SDL to contact Janice Jun regarding options and ideas. GWI cannot pay for any services.

- Use of Social Media/Twitter/GWI Website etc

The office will continue its comprehensive social media campaigns for Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn; Instagram is now being utilized as a social media tool more regularly. She reported that during the GA and Conference that regular Instagram Stories were published. SDL reported that she receives regular positive feedback for the GWI website; site visitors report that the information provided is very good and that they learn much about GWI from the site.

- Members want bullet points of the update

SDL suggested a sign-up campaign to the Update for GWI members who recently attended the GA and Conference; if more members received the Update they would stay more informed; she can plan to create a bulletized list for distribution to GWI Presidents and CIR (how often) but is concerned to reduce the office work to bulletized list; many useful toolkits and information is distributed and the issue is making sure the Presidents and CIRs pass along the information.

6. Dates of events/meetings to come
- CFUW 17-20-August 2019
- CSW March 9-20, 2020
- AFDU 18-20- September 2020, 100 years/UWE 40 years
- Others??? – None mentioned.

7. Planning of Board meetings – Next meeting to be determined.
8. Other business – None.

Meeting adjourned at 16h57.
Minutes taken by SDL.