Board 2020-2022 Meeting Minutes
16 July 2020, 6pm, Central European Summer Time (CEST), ZOOM

Attendees: Terry Oudraad (TO), President; Veena Bathe (VB), VP Legal and Governance; Eileen Focke-Bakker (EFB), VP Membership; Glenda Hecksher (GH), VP Marketing; Louise McLeod (LM); VP Advocacy and Education; Basak Ovacik (BO), VP Fundraising; Katharina Strub (KS), Treasurer; and Stacy Dry Lara (SDL), Executive Director

Apologies: None

Welcome: TO welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 6:02PM CEST

Agenda: Adopted

Minutes from the 18 June 2020 Board meeting: Adopted

Conflicts of Interest: None

Strategic Plan (SP) 2020-2022
Final version adopted. LM to beautify the SP Word document. Idea is to distribute the SP with the 2019 Annual Report.

Membership
EFB reviewed the Committee on the Dues Structure (CDS) series of meetings and recommendations. The Board members expressed their deep gratitude to EFB for her leadership of the CDS and thanks to the CDS for their work. EFB expressed her appreciation to the CDS for their dedication, professionalism, and amiable work ethic.

Fundraising
BO held meeting with new Fundraising Committee on 14 July; seven participants including members from Mexico, Gambia, Bangladesh, United States, India, and TO and SDL; GH also to join. It was good introductory meeting; discussed patron programmes, grant writing experience; communication experience that can be contribution; 5 August is next meeting; until then the Committee will brainstorm via email on fundraising ideas; challenge of COVID 19 and fundraising was raised and different fundraising strategy than typical needs to be developed. BO to send Fundraising Committee a questionnaire as next steps.

Hegg Hoffet (HH) Committee
As per BO, HH Committee has not met again to discuss the review of digital tech as part of HH application criteria; BO stressed the point that technology is the future of education and that the HH Committee was disappointed in the Board decision not to support HH applications for computers; it was reminded that HH funds cannot be used for any COVID-19 grants because the COVID-19 pandemic is not forcing people into refugee status; HH is only for confirmed refugee status women seeking to continue education or take integration classes (language or certification classes) in the host country; the difference in refugee versus migrants such as in Mexico was pointed out; discussion that the HH Committee can run a special fundraising COVID-19 campaign to fund COVID-19 applications as example for computers of those students displaced from university; HH info is being distributed.

Advocacy
LM and SDL met last week about the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) sessions and advocacy webinar series. LM has been participating in HLPF. In addition to the Member State Voluntary National Reviews and accelerating of the SDGs implementation in collaboration with civil society and private sector working with governments, the HLPF has acted quickly to include much about COVID 19 in the session; very quick turnaround. General message is Build Back Better. HLPF outcome will include a political statement. The focus of LM attendances is technology – emerging theme: the only way to educate the world population is with online education. LM will deconstruct her attendances thematically and send the summary to SDL. The office will produce an HLPF Special Edition Update. LM will represent WG-USA at the UN Stakeholder meeting on 21 July. TO and EFB will represent the GWI Board.

Finances
Q2 Report Overview: The Q2 financial report indicates the Unrestricted General Reserve Fund allocated from the conference 2019 benefit; it was agreed that there are no funds to allocate at this time as savings for the 2022 conference; it was noted as per financial statement notes 5.1 that the Board has discretionary control over the Unrestricted General Reserve Fund. The Restricted Fund for the Teachers for Rural Futures program supported by the City of Geneva has been established.

General review of Q2 included mention that the GWI website and communication tools are critical to running the organization; general consulting fees are a little higher with bookkeeping about half of the consulting fee budget; report includes allocation of office staff time; there will be a rent reduction of two months as per SDL COVID 19 support application to FIPOI, office landlord; KS warned that even though there is enough cash to continue operations this year, the Board must be mindful of expenses; fundraising is critical; if NFAs do not pay and fundraising is unsuccessful, additional austerity measure will need to be implemented.

Dues Update: Those NFAs who are currently participating in the Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) projects must pay their 2020 dues to be eligible to receive the 2nd installment (40%). Three BRPID project NFAs were contacted; one has paid; the other two are in discussions. COVID 19 has delayed the 2019 BRPID projects; the 2nd installments will be distributed with the projects resume. SDL noted that the BPRID project Terms of Reference (ToR) must be updated to include that the NFA must pay its dues for the duration of the project; BRPID typically run June to June; she will update the ToR and send to the Board.

Those NFA who have not yet paid 2020 dues are being contacted by Board members, via GWI Regional Leaders and the office – all measures to encourage payment. Some NFAs are reporting that they are still having trouble sending money out of their country. TO to write a letter of response to Turkey; KS to resend Turkey's 2020 invoices to TO for letter support.

Discussion about the CFUW MOU in-kind contribution was deferred to September. The in-kind contribution allocation is being reviewed by FinCom; with the help of the bookkeeper an examination of the in-kind contribution will be made and perhaps reallocated because the in-kind work is performed outside of Switzerland in-kind work from CFUW can, by definition, not be performed by GWI; this will affect the VAT payment positively.

Some NFAs have been offered the payment plan or extension as per the following motions:

Motion: The GWI Board hereby accepts the recommendation of the Finance Committee to extend the payment deadline for the 2020 dues of the Federación Boliviana de Mujeres Profesionales Universitarias until January 2021. The payment delay is due to the financial problems caused by the world-wide COVID 19 pandemic.

Proposed by: KS; Seconded by: TO
Motion passed unanimously

Motion: The GWI Board hereby accepts the recommendation of the Finance Committee to extend the payment deadline for the 2020 dues of the Rwanda Association of University Women until the end of September 2020.

Proposed by: KS; Seconded by: EFB
Motion passed unanimously

Office Matters
Human Right Council (HRC): SDL reported that the HRC43, discontinued in March, had resumed, and concluded at the United Nations in Geneva with very limited in-person participation, NGOs were permitted to participate online. The HRC44 reportedly began this week but dates have been changing; NGOs are permitted to attend via online registration; best case for participation in HRC44 was to submit a written statement which the office did. The statement addressed violence against women in COVID-19 world with cosigners CFUW and WG-USA; the office is participating virtually and will make reports in the Update on HRC44.

ED and Program Officer vacation 2020: GWI Programme Officer, Clemence Mathiaud, has requested vacation 7-31 August. SDL will be on vacation 17-30 August. The idea that SDL and CM take vacation simultaneously; it was agreed that the office can close for two weeks.

Update COVID 19 reduction request: SDL received verbal confirmation from the office landlord that two months of rent will be granted based on her application for COVID 19 financial support; she awaits official documents.

Marketing
GH presented an art contest idea to promote women human rights and education; suggested the contest and winners be presented in a book from GWI or other enterprise such as a UN entity. SDL reminded that the office had commenced a Poster Contest to the NFAs for Girls in ICT day this year; presumably because of COVID 19 no entries were received; SDL to share with GH the contest rules and regulations and entry form already created. TO referred to GH developing a Marketing Plan of Action; GH to do so. LM referred to a similar idea she knew of from a U.S. university professor who had students base projects around an SDG that turned out very successful.

Any other business: None

Next Board meeting: 18 August 2020, 6PM CEST

Adjourned 9:06PM CEST