



Board 2019-2022 Meeting Minutes
20 April 2021, 6 pm Central European Time (CET), 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 6:04pm CEST

Agenda: Agenda Adopted with additional point for discussion - Fellowship Committee Update

Minutes from the 25 February 2021 Board meeting: Adopted

Conflicts of Interest: None

Finances

KS updated the Board with the current status of 2021 NFA dues.

It was observed that about 20 NFAs have not paid their annual dues despite several reminders from the GWI office. It was decided that Board members to use their good offices to encourage and follow up on these NFAs to pay their dues latest by 30 June 2021.

GWI Office :

KS reported that based on the dues amount already received from the NFAs and the dues amount receivable by June 2021, GWI is likely to face deficit of funds amounting to CHF 11,800 for operating the GWI office.

Further the deficit might increase beyond CHF 20,000 if the NFAs from the unpaid dues list don't pay them by 30 June 2021.

This calls for urgent need to downsize the GWI office to financially sustain till end of 2022. Action on this has already started by shifting the office to a small place with affordable rent.

Next step to downsize the staff and it was decided to terminate the services of Ms. Clemence from July 2021. A two month notice to be given to her by the end of April 2021.

About the internship program, SDL informed that a new intern from France has joined recently; she shall intern for several months and will work remotely from France. Another intern from Zurich to be interviewed and if she joins then she will work at the office few days a month. The interns won't be replacing Clemence, they will be mostly assisting in research and GWI's social media work.

Management fees on the Restricted Funds



KS informed that as per the GWI Accountant, Board can decide to charge up to 15% as management fees on restricted funds to manage them, however this needs to be agreed by the committees which manage and overviews the distribution of these funds.

It was suggested that the Auditor should be consulted on how the management fees could be charged and then accordingly the charges to be officially brought into the GWI system starting from the current financial year.

Membership:

EFB thanked LM for conducting excellent brainstorming session on Membership; quite a few ideas and discussion points of this session she will be sharing with the Memcom and YM in their meetings scheduled in next few days.

The Memcom will be starting interactions with the membership through the 'Membership Campaign' which is likely to kick off end of May. Action Plan for the campaign is being formulated by the Memcom and YM. The main focus will be to understand the aspiration and vision for GWI of the individual members, the feedback received from the intergenerational webinar will be the basis for start off. The results of the campaign will be evaluated in Oct-Nov. Relevant actions on the results will be undertaken and they shall continue till 2022 GA.

Fellowships

BO reported that two members of the Fellowship committee are not taking active part in the working of the committee. A member when she files her nomination to be a GWI committee member promises to attend the meetings and actively participate in the working of the committee. But this has not been the case with the two Fellowship Committee members, one from El Salvador and another from Pakistan, who have not responded to any emails from the Convener.

The committee has received applications for GWI Fellowships and it's the responsibility of the committee members to evaluate each application before finalizing the beneficiaries. Member of this committee should be a doctorate with experience in assessing applications for fellowships. Hence there is a need to contact the two committee members.

GH will be contacting the member from El Salvador and KS/SDL will check if there is any other contact information of the member from Pakistan.

Fundraising :

BO informed the Board that Geeta Desai, Past President, has offered to help GWI in raising funds to make it financially sustainable. She has the expertise, resources and has worked with well-known Foundations in this field.

A brief power point presentation of her Proposal: To Prepare GWI for a Post Pandemic World was made. The proposal was received in 2020 and it proposes to

- create/develop a sustainable revenue model with less dependence on membership dues;
- facilitate and manage an organizational structure which will support GWI's work in post pandemic world.
- approach UN Agencies and International Bodies with whom GWI would like to work and create meaningful relationships;



- approach Foundations, Big Pharmas and Multi -National companies that fund women's and girl's programs.

The proposal will be circulated to the other Board Members and TO will get in touch with Geeta to take this forward.

Short Term Actions for GWI :

TO's document on short term actions for GWI was discussed

Immediate actions to be taken on priority basis were decided

Letter from the Board to the NFAs updating them about the GWI's financial situation, mentioning

- there is likely to be a deficit of funds for operating the organisation as quite a few NFAs have not paid their dues due to the COVID pandemic
- report about financial and management safeguards put in by the previous and current Board
- update of D&O policy claim
- If possible plan a town hall meeting with the NFA Presidents and CIRs

This letter will be followed by a flyer to the NFAs about Membership Campaign

Discussion on 2022 GA :

Implementing a white year for the Board or postponing the GA till 2023 was ruled out. The NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum has shown that it's possible to hold a virtual GA in 2022. It would be wise to decide on a virtual GA in 2022 in view of travel uncertainties due to the COVID pandemic.

Being virtual GA there is a possibility of more members registering than previous triennial conferences; different time zones of membership for business session, workshops, seminars and exhibits will need to be considered along with the cost for holding on virtual platform.

SDL informed that GWI has a contract with 'idloom' company for registration software. It was used for 2019 conference registration. The company is currently looking at expanding their online event structure; since GWI has a good relation with the company we can obtain a quote from them for 2022 GA.

Further discussion on the virtual 2022 GA will be conducted in June/July. SDL will circulate the Triennial Conference Handbook to the Board members to plan their triennial GA tasks.

Next Board Meeting :

SDL informed the Board that the office will be busy with the shifting to a new place. She suggested that the next Board meeting to be planned once she has settled in. Accordingly she will send the doodle to the Board for the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:16pm CEST