Minutes of the GWI Board 2022-25 Meeting held on 24th May 2024, 4pm Central European Time (CEST), Zoom

Eighteenth Board Meeting

Attendees: President Patrice Wellesley Cole (PWC);VP Advocay Shaila Rao Mistry (SRM); VP Education, Shirley Gillett(SG);; VP Membership, Meera Bondre (MB); Treasurer, Sudha Srivastava (Sudha),GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara (SDL) VP Projects, Mildred Asmah(MA)
Apologies: VP Legal & Governance, Ujwala Shinde(US);

Meeting called to order at 4**pm CEST**.

1. Welcome: PWC welcomed all to the Eighteenth Board Meeting.

2. Conflict of Interest: NONE

3. Adoption of Agenda: Sudha moved agenda and seconded by SRM

4. Adoption of Minutes of April,2024 GWI Board Meeting . PWC mentioned to adopt it in the next board meeting

5. Treasurer's quarterly report: Sudha mentioned that there was one action point to share the details of Bulgaria and that has been done by her. Sudha presented the quarter financial report for the first quarter of 2024 by sharing the screen.

Sudha explained that the first quarter is 1st of January to 31st March and it covers everything, all the finances in this report. She mentioned that this report was discussed in the quarterly meeting of Finance Committee on 2nd May. And it was approved and recommended for the board to accept it. Report was shared with the Board in advance. Sudha highlighted key points: Income – dues NFA status, there is zero income in legacy donation. She highlighted the fact that there hasn't been any income in the grant section, which GWI agreed for 10,000 projects to localize SDGs, there is no income in that section. There has been global giving, general fundraising, 1700. She stressed GWI expenses are more than income and Board needs to take it seriously. Expenses - The CSW expenses are under international advocacy. As per provision for membership and regional development, 500 CHF were granted to India for hosting UWAsia regional conference.

Under Restricted Funds for various projects there hasn't been any movement in this quarter except Teachers for Rural Futures, so we have everything same she highlighted. She mentioned that there is a progress in Bina Roy Partners in Development Fund, as GWI received project applications from NFAs. After the project allocations for this year, this fund needs fundraising. Hegg Hoffet Fund needs acceleration to get some applications. She further asked about Vinay Bala Mehta Fund, if there is any project going to be in this category, because this money, again, is not utilized yet. This was a seed money and needs fundraising.

SRM asked about legacy funds. Sudha mentioned that legacy fund grants that we have already allocated 10 000 income, and she has already raised the flags in the report.

Sudha put forward the 22nd FinCom Recommendation by sharing screen:

"At its meeting of 2nd May, 2024, FinCom discussed the 1st Quarterly Financial Report of 2024. The Treasurer explained the 1st Quarterly Financial Report of 2024 and clarified some questions by Finance Committee members. The Finance Committee members present all agreed with and accepted the report, and they recommended to the GWI Board of Officers to accept it." Sudha proposed the motion to accept the report, SG seconded it.

Sudha put forward the 21st FinCom Recommendation by sharing screen:

"FinCom was informed at its meeting of May 2, 2024, that the Turkish Federation, TAUW,has dues arrears of CHF 5'685 for the year 2023; no dues have been paid yet for 2024.
FinCom acknowledged that TAUW supports a large number of female students financially. And that Turkey still suffers from the terrible earthquake

of spring 2023. However, the federation already has gotten dues alleviations for 2023. In addition, FinCom was informed that
TAUW has applied for support for a good and worthwhile Bina Roy project.

Recommendations by FinCom :

- It is necessary that TAUW submits a payment plan for the CHF 5'685 arrears for 2023. FinCom will
gladly participate in the discussion of a payment plan if desired or needed.
- Once a payment plan exists, it will be possible for TAUW to obtain support for a Bina Roy project.
- Dues alleviations for the current year 2024 will be discussed by FinCom and can be accorded to TAUW once the arrears for 2023 have been paid.

Recommendation proposed by Sudha and seconded by MA.

Sudha asked SDL for progress/updates on legacy donation.

ACTION POINT: **Sudha to write to CIR Turkey with this recommendation and ask what is next.**

6. Projects and Education updates: Mildred and Shirley: MA stareted updating unfortunately lost the connection .

SG updated on Education that after the museum one, they were regrouped and looked at what's the next thing going to be, and they had three different possibilities. One was continuing museums in some other shape or form, like people in New Zealand have said, let's get our own women's museum. And right from the beginning they decided to go with child marriages. Education is a fundamental tool to diminish slash eradicates child marriages in the world. And each of us is going to do one page concept with a series of questions about our own country on it as an initial research thing. So a list of questions for your country, everybody looks at the same questions, about 10 different questions in your country, like what is your government doing to address child marriage, it can be called as a project, broadly speaking, education. And we've got our next meeting in early June, by which time everybody has to do their research, including me on New Zealand.

7. Advocacy and Legal and Governance Updates - Shaila : Advocacy Updates - SRM updated, she was working on the CSW GWI impact at CSW, It's a very comprehensive report that covers the key elements of CSW. Who are the key UN participants, Members State, Private sector and Civily society, not least the World Bank and International Monetary Fund . She addressed the key discussions, negotiation process and the key issues under the temem of CSW 68. The key elements were identified with the barriers and challegens to women sadvancement. A high level analysis of gains and losses of the agreed conclusions was included with highlights of discussions. Inclued also was the impact of GWI at CSW together with editorial comments on each.

SRM commented, with appreciation, on the considerable time and resources invested by GWI and each of the board members who attended including all the NFA members. We clearly have a tremendous impact, notwithstanding our cost in time and money to travel to New York for CSW. She clarified our impact in her Advocacy report which has been eblasted to all members this morning. In the report, she actually addressed in detail all the different levels. SRM also highlighted Advocacy recommendations going forward from what was discussed. She focused on action points – raising questions about what needs to be done, particularly the critical need for advocacy building through collaboration and partnerships at the highest level. She further mentioned that, as GWI, she was invited to address the entire CSW member state delegation at the Artificial Intelligence Dialogue Conference where she presented on Artificial Intelligence and importance of our inputs to ensure equity for women. She also highlighted our history of working in the internet and digital world, including our contributions since IFUW days in 2003. SRM was also invited to lead the UN Women Conversation Circles, where she as the Keynote speaker on Women, Economy and Women in Power and Decision-making, followed by discussions on action items going forward. SRM addressed key action she will take as VP of Advocacy, and identified which areas she is going to lead. She reported on Advocacy Influencers Global - Advocacy Without Borders -AIG-AWB. She has held another round of meetings and will be holding another round of meetings for regions that could not attend. She is seeking regional leaders to participate at this point including Africa and Pacific region. AWB is seeking active participation from regional leaders for high-level regional meeting, so we want to engage them first, and the plan is then to go to phase two of opening further high-level leaders at country level

She further said that she needs the contacts, and Stacey provided one. She reached out to several people in South Africa, in Africa. She Chairs the Resolution Committee and they are working on A Call for Resolutions. She advised NFA's is seeking to make a resolution, to please ensure it does not duplicate a previous resolution. She informed that they are doing two webinars on advocacy. One is in August on Advocacy including the what and the how . The second one will be on Resolutions in September 7th, dates will be sent to everyone.

She informed about, Without Borders meeting yesterday, she presented an update on what's happening after the Nairobi Summit, the planning for the Summit of the future, and also Pact of the future. She attended a high-level meeting with Lopa Banerjee, the Deputy Secretary for UN Women; A good, strong understanding that they are now seeking Beijing plus 30 invite "bold and innovative ideas". She further added that, the two critical areas that Advocacy Without Borders will focus on, and SRM will lead the charge, is on two buzz things that came out of all of these summits, including CSW, is Artificial Intelligence and Women in Power and High leadership. Unless we increase the bandwidth and capacity of more women leaders in the key places, we will not bring change in all of the areas. It impacts all of the areas. So while we think those two areas issues are separate, they in fact are not. Having more women leaders, impacts better education, better health, better decision-making economy and so on. SRM will be leading in these areas. Having all the regions represented is critical, as we have come together to prepare position papers on these two areas . One more critical area to increase collaboration between NFAs and all of us. So by doing these papers, by putting together this document, which will be a substantial document, we are then going to take that and present it to key decision makers like the World Bank, like the

International Monetary Fund, like the UN Women and UN. So our voices are heard.

Sudha mentioned that Young Members Network will submit a resolution near the time.

SG informed that it's a side shoot about CSW, which relates a bit. It's that four of us presented here in Dunedin, the four of us that went all from graduate on Otago, And our young member, Ioana, she excelled. She went first, and then myself, and then Otila, and then Otila's daughter, Phoebe Rose. and we were in the paper, so there's a big description of us, and we were interviewed for the University Bulletin and for the ODT, the Otago Daily Times,

SRM added that a lot of work and energy and all of the working hard goes into the Advocacy Report, so she urged that everyone to read and participate. PWC appreciated and said that Shaila's done is key to our strategy.

8. Membership and YM updates- Meera and Sudha : MB requested all to join the upcoming MemCom meeting, which will be on 19th of June 04.00 pm. CEST. She said that before the last meeting she sent a mail to all the Board members which was from Pat Reavy from MemCom. In that, certain points were mentioned like what is the board is doing about fundraising, partnership building, tools to build and retain membership, the performance indicators and so on. We know that some questions are being raised again and again about the OD Process. Whatever is being asked to the MemCom members, we all, together can answer those. MB further mentioned that Independent Members meeting is pending and new names have also come up. Patrice, has suggested a lady from Morocco who wants to become an Independent Member. As per MemCom's information some from Chile may want to become Independent Members. It was decided to send doodle by SDL to fix the meeting date.

ACTION POINT: SDL to send Doodle

MB suggested that she would like to send a Membership Letter which used to be a practice in the previous tenure. It reached every member directly, not only to the Presidents and CIRs. Through this we can communicate any important matter to our members across the world. Recently NZ Otago reached the number 100 of their membership. So a couple of lines about how they did it can be written in the Membership Letter. It would be a motivation for other NFAs.

MB further informed that NFA to NFA Project of plastics between India and Canada is going on. As Heather mentioned, the 22nd Earth Day webinar could be considered a part of this project. From the Indian side, a form was prepared , over 300 responses were collected and now the analysis is going on.

The French Speaking Bridge, on the lines of the Spanish Speaking Culture Bridge is also on its way.

MB also told about the formation of a new affiliate of Indian NFA at Bhubaneswar and increased membership since last month. She would send the exact number of IFUWA Members now, to Sudha. Sudha wanted to know about any new NFAs being formed. MB answered that Sri Lanka is one which was very active and when SAARCFUW was formed in 1995. They were the leaders and now they are not with us. Along with the member countries, the representatives from the SAARC countries like Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Maldives participated in the SAARCGWI Panel of our Conference in Pune and we urged them to form NFAs. It's not so easy. Further Sudha asked MB as a VP Membership what she should do with Bulgaria. MB replied that she had written mails but no one is answering .

SG said that if MB had any contact with the Pacific, there's potential there, so they're probably worth connecting, and there might be room for expansion.

YMN Updates: Sudha updated that YMN welcomed three new members this month from Great Britain, Zimbabwe and Ireland. YMN continue to grow not only in numbers but also in diversity they did not have Zimbabwe member in our network and now, they have one. Growing Together Monthly series continues and this month it was session on language of dressing which was enjoyed by other young members following interesting comments and questions. These conversation sessions, as usual, had been helping young women to build their confidence, presenting their work, presenting about their culture, their interests, and finding similar interests in other countries and culture. This is a good aspect of not only professionally connecting, but also connecting in friendship as we say in BFWG "Perfecting the Art of Friendship", Sudha quoted.

Sudha has been planning to launch the mentoring series for YMN and had done a consultation on logistics, date/time/format. 25 members are interested in various topics. After consultations, it has come out that a preferred format is similar to the Growing Together Series – an hour session each. Sudha is working on different topics and planning.

Sudha mentioned that she has already requested to have some content on the website to give visibility to YMN. It helps many new members joining to learn about the YMN work. Ireland wants to have a set-up of young members, which they don't have yet. Sudha mentioned that time to time she has been invited by NFAs to talk about YMN and how she could help set up the network. It can vary on interests of young members in different countries. It can work differently in NFAs than what works as GWI. She reiterated that it will be helpful to have some visibility of YMN on the GWI website.

9. 105th anniversary arrangements- Shirley : SG updated that she has sent from the firm, his scope plan and description and his agreement, no increase thing budget price. Regarding the video, she sent Lizzie's suggestions. She informed that , the key thing is he wants half first up front. $1,000. But he will do it earlier. He wants an advance of a thousand. PWC raised the question about the money arrangements to Sudha. Sudha asked whether board has approved it and what is the description. Sudha mentioned that it needs to be approved and needs to have invoice that needs to be uploaded on the bank system.
   Sudha asked PWC, that whether the board approving 2,000 New Zealand dollars for this wall website? PWC and the Board members agreed with approving this 2,000 for the wall website. Shirley offered to pay at her end and then GWI will reimburse to SG, it was agreed

MA updated on projects . She mentioned that for Dr. Mehta Fund, she has some suggestions. She is going to do a memorandum for the board in the course of the week so board can take a decision if we agree. And then procedure for Bina Roy will be followed. PDC also wanted some advice and guidelines from Board concerning the use of the fund. She mentioned that Board should provide guidance for them to have a meeting, inputs for them to have a meeting to discuss the parameters for the use of the fund. And that is clearly stated in the MOU. She submitted that she will do a short memo and send it as soon as possible. ACTION POINT

SRM asked MA. 'Do we have a report on what's happening with projects? Which projects on the ground are working? How far we've advanced?'

MA mentioned that she will contact SDL about the projects because some Bina Roy projects are ongoing. She can speak for Ghana because there are still two uncompleted projects they are working on. She will liaise with Stacy and then come up with a short write-up.

10. Action points/ APs from April Board meeting:-

a. Bids for 35th GWI GA Triennial conference - Stacy : SDL updated that the deadline's been passed for almost a month now, and GWI didn't get any bids, but she has received an email from the President of New Zealand, Sally, who asked her some specific questions about... what the local responsibility was, who pays for the event and that kind of thing. And SDL responded, also gave her the circular that explains more about sending in a bid and told her that board would be okay to extend the bid deadline, but board need to know quickly. PWC mentioned that for this we will need help like sponsorship etc. SDL submitted that she told to New Zealand President that the entire venue, that means like 20 something conference rooms for the workshops are required. And, it's the local arrangement committee has a big role to play. And the local sponsorships are important, the entire financial responsibility is on GWI, and it's not on the NFA. SDL further mentioned that now the budget needs to be set. If New Zealand wants to take the charge and do it, then we just have to make sure that people actually go to New Zealand. SRM mentioned that it might be more advisable with everything that's going on to have it somewhere more central. And Europe, is central. We need that major sponsorship to come in break even. Sudha mentioned that whether the budget is planned first for the conference or after having the host it can be prepared. SDL mentioned that the place is decided first. We have a really good budget from 2019. And unfortunately, 2022 isn't going to apply because it was all virtual. So we're going to have to go back to 2019 budget. And the budget or line items are there. SDL said that not saying that we go back to the cost, but the line items to fill in are there. And so we do have something to go to follow that we worked on for months. It took the finance committee and SDL and the treasurer weeks to get this thing finalized in a way that it made sense. Because what we inherited from the previous administration and executive director, Daniel Castle, was over-expensed. So we had to make it really work within the GWI budget. We have to know where, and we have to know how many workshops are there going to be, how many, that kind of thing, because that determines how many rooms that have to be rented. We have to look at the days, the number of days. The general assembly is typically two days in person, but you have a registration before that. The registration has to open soon. We've opened the registration a year before for Geneva, a year before because we needed to start getting that magic number. Sudha mentioned that, even the 2022 virtual conference went in deficit that was covered from the General Reserve Fund. Ideally, the Conference expenses should be covered from conference registration. Sudha further suggested that in MemCom, Spanish members are very active, as per MB, probably they want to make a bid. MB agreed to explore the possibility. ACTION POINT

SRM mentioned that we need to add the line item of booking hotels so that we have enough rooms once we know how many are coming. So that's a very important line item. She suggested to also considering UK, if they can do it because it's central. That means more people will come. Options, looking for a central location where everyone can get to, is accessible, and a reason why people will come there and combine a vacation. And then the cost of rooms associated with meetings. Sudha and SRM mentioned that if there is possibility of changing dates of the conference they will be for it if that helps in possibility of more.

b) VP fundraising interview status after one out of 2 interviewed - Shirley, Shaila and Stacy :

PWC informed that only one to be interviewed turned up. The other one had problems at work and couldn't make one interview. SG mentioned that she was asked to be chair of interview board. We should have had a meeting. We should have discussed it then. That's proper process. Because it's really probably too late to go back to the second one now, and I'd like to propose that we accept Maria. She spoke so intelligently and passionately about who we are, what we are, and our meaning that she should be a contribution, she's young we're there very thin on the board numerically and from the fundraising point of view, she had fundraised within the university. She mentioned Melinda Gates writing to them she could start and help SG. We could give her the task of trying to work something out for the Hampstead Heath thing, the newsletter newspaper. We need more people there. She deserved a chance. She was impressive. It would help a bit with some of the politics in Mexico. SG recommended her.

SRM raised the point of consensus of all the board members for making appointment of new VP. PWC asked everyone present at the board meeting. SG was in favour of appointment. SDL submitted that she is not the board member so she cannot vote. MB said she would like to remain abstained. MA said she would like to remain abstained. Sudha said, new person should be given a chance.

PWC stated that in the circumstances," I don't think we can appoint her. as a team. unless, we want to put it back to the next meeting, it looks as if we can't even put her on trial or a trial period, so."
SDL submitted that this type of situation happened in the past when the board has been at an impasse the President has made the decision. It was done that with the Geeta board and also with the Terry board. The president is a presiding officer. PWC said that she would think and email and she had made a very careful note. **ACTION POINT: PWC to revert back with decision.**

MB suggested that, as there is another vacancy, can any of the board members, think of a person, who's capable, whom you are sure that she is good. So that fill both the posts.

PWC mentioned that, So that is two agreements. Two abstentions. One against. And that leaves her to decide. She is going think about this.

SG mentioned that “Why don't we call a special meeting and get her to come before the board and then you can make an informed choice? I think that would be fair to all of us and to her. I think it wasn't enough people. And we could just in a week's time, we could just agree for a very short meeting for an hour and ask if she'll come. And then you could all ask one question each, just one question each. And then you could actually, you wouldn't have to abstain.” SRM mentioned “And then we should also tap people on the shoulder and ask, invite them to come and do the job because we know many good people.” SRM suggested that to ask each of board members to look in their own NFA or in other NFAs and to propose other names and whoever has a strong relationship with them and they have a good background to ask them, to invite them, which is what appointments usually are.

c) New date for postponed retreat - all VPs : Retreat is scheduled on Monday, the 22nd of July at 4 p.m. CEST.

11. Any other business: SDL subnitted that there is a huge amount of work that has come out of the office lately. It's been a lot of press releases, a lot of published infographics. There's been toolkits for International Day of Girls in ICT. She has filled in a really small fundraising application. The small fundraising application was just for $500 for the Teachers for Rural Futures program, but 500 is more than nothing. And she was hoping that the board has noticed because there's been a lot of work going out of the office lately. They have submitted a written statement for the High Level Political Forum that will take place in September. The focus on that was prioritizing women in decision making in response to education crisis that we're still in. They are submitting a written statement for the Human Rights Council that will be held in June. That one is dovetailing into the three other statements we've done over the past three years on digital education. But this one focuses more on open access education. and free education. And there was another publication about CSW 68 that summarized, it was right before Shaila's, it summarized the delegate reports and also the discussion network. And it complements Shaila’s very well. She encouraged board members to read that. She further mentioned that the Bina Roy projects are moving along. All the acceptance letters will go out Monday except for Turkey as we wait to see what they're going to do.

The Teachers for Rural Futures expansion research is about to be concluded. And then that report will be shared and we'll have to discuss it maybe at the retreat. And so also we've discussed the conference that was on my list. The International Day Against Hate Speech is coming up. And the project that she was working on is collecting short video snippets from the interns are helping to do this before they all go. And so that will be something to mark Hate Speech and to resurrect the idea that we had the support of the Undersecretary on genocide. So that was the update for the past month.

SG suggested taking the opinion of US, on VP appointment point, as she is a voter.

Sudha suggested if SDL's updates can be first in the agenda to give appropriate time for GWI office updates.

And updates about legacy donation.

PWC asked SDL about the updates of legacy donations. SDL submitted that there's a lot that needs to be done on legacy donation that we had been part of in the past was a woman named Esther Schier And Esther Shearer had left large hundreds of thousands of dollars to four different organizations. And GWI received money way before SDL was GWI Executive Director. The money had come and been spent before. But GWI is receiving the final distribution from that $721. That's just the final. It's been going on for years. So GWI is receiving that and it's not much, but that will close out.

Since there has been such difficulty in getting the Horvath legacy, SDL is going to ask the Schier attorney if she can help. SDL further mentioned that the website is moving along. Louise and SDL have continued to meet, and there is a sample site that Louise is looking currently. Louise is on vacation right now for a while. but it's kind of in her hands now to take a look at it. It's super simple. It's just a facelift. It's not a new website. SDL never wanted to raise expectations because this is all falling under the fee that GWI already has with them. And it's been a very huge job. SDL announced in the last board meeting that the media library had been reduced substantially. So that's helping a lot. And once there's a sharing sample page, SDL will share it. But there won't be any room for design after that from the board. It'll just be whether you like it and you want to use it or not.

And GWI turned the project over to Louise and to SDL. the young members have their own section right on the front that will be populated. There's a lot of progress. SDL has another meeting with them next week. Sudha asked about sending of the content. SDL told to send all the content that Sudha wants. SDL informed that she has placed all the content that was written in 2020, all of that reworked content has already been placed in the website.

Wrap Up: PWC thanked to all the Board member for long but productive meeting.

Next 19th Board Meeting is fixed on Monday, the 24th of June. 5 p.m. for New Zealand, which is 6 a.m. CEST.

Retreat is scheduled on Monday, the 22nd of July at 4 p.m. CEST.

Meeting adjourned: 6:53:44pm CEST

Minutes drafted by US

ACTION POINT: Sudha to write to CIR Turkey with this recommendation and ask what is next.

ACTION POINT: MB: Spanish members are very active, as per MB, probably they want to make a bid. MB agreed to explore the possibility.

ACTION POINT: MA: She submitted that she will do a short memo and send it as soon as possible.

ACTION POINT: PWC: To sent an email; VP appointment decision.

ACTION POINT: SDL: SDL to decide date for independent members meeting. To send doddle.