

Minutes of the GWI Board 2022-25 Meeting held on 23rd April 2024, 6pm Central European Time (CET), zoom

Seventeenth Board Meeting

Attendees: President Patrice Wellesley Cole (PWC); VP Advocacy 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 Legal & Governance, Ujwala Shinde (US); VP Projects, Mildred Asmah (MA)

Meeting called to order at **6pm CET**.

1. Welcome: PWC welcomed all to the seventeenth Board Meeting.
2. Conflict of Interest: NONE
3. Adoption of Agenda: Sudha moved agenda and seconded by SRM
4. PWC mentioned that there are two sets of minutes ... Adoption of Minutes of 19th February, 2024 GWI Board Meeting . Board meeting. February minutes were proposed by SG and seconded by MB. 25th March Meeting are not adopted as SRM wanted to make some changes in the minutes

5. Treasurer's report:

Sudha mentioned that the quarterly report will be presented in the next meeting. She has been working on to consolidate 2024 first quarter financials, which covers from 1st January to 31st March. FinCom is arranging quarterly meeting next week. The report will be discussed and then presented to the Board in the next Board meeting. Sudha will share report and any recommendations well in advance with the Board as usual.

NFA Dues – Sudha updated about the due's status after the first round of reminders were sent in March. Some more NFAs paid but still there are a few NFA matters that she will discuss with FinCom.

Sudha wrote to Turkey CIR (copied GWI President, GWI Executive Director, GWI VP Membership and GWI FinCom Convenor) about the payment plan for 2023 dues arrears and 2024 payments but have not had any reply. Some of the key NFAs have not paid 2024 dues yet. Further reminders are in order.



She asked updates on legacy donation, about Bulgaria membership and also Vinaybala Mehta project, that those three points she asked last time, so she would like to know if there has been any update on that for the financial purpose and for the reporting purpose for her as a treasurer. She mentioned to MB that, she saw MB's email. She has not received any communication from CFUW, as a treasurer, for any questions. Sudha reminded and reiterated the urgent need of accelerated fundraising and membership development.

6. 105th Anniversary celebration update on arrangements- Shirley : SG updated that the letter went out from Stacy to the membership list. By the end of April she would have a more detailed description. There's been a lot of positive response. It was proposed in New Zealand meeting \$105 brick donation, it is not yet got. Someone should be there to make the website, the website that connects up the gift with the visual. New Zealand's already on the way to making the video. PWC questioned Is that a video just for New Zealand or a video for all the GWI participants? SG clarified that it is just for New Zealand. PWC further asked about a deadline when they need to get all the videos to HQ? SG mentioned that, she thought maybe the beginning of July, the 1st of July, because the 11th is the day. SDL mentioned that it needs to be little early as people always ask for extensions. There needs to be a lot of thought that goes into the stipulations and the guidelines of the video. We can't just say, send a video. We have to have strict guidelines for the length and the type of file that's received. We have to have the script so there's quite a bit that needs to go into it before we can even send out a call for videos and specifically also needs to be the what are they videoing about? They need to have a choice. They need to have two different questions and they can choose to answer a specific question. That makes for a very cohesive sounding video as well as it gives them a focus so they don't ramble about.

SDL further mentioned that we can get 15-20 videos from NFAs. One minute time for the videos would be long period. However, SG disagreed and said that We've already sent it out saying two to three minutes video. SRM mentioned that, We could do the two-minute video, but also see if there's a capacity to identify whose video starts at what time. So you can usually say 12 minutes in, it's, let's say, WG. 17 minutes in, it's New Zealand and so on. So usually what happens is people select which videos we want to see. If so, if they're identified, then as a consumer, as a member, when I go in, then I just choose to see Canada, I choose to see New Zealand, I choose to see the British Federation, and I'll see mine, right, or the Indian



Federation. So we could do that as an option. But people will just choose, they will not see it through. to just jump from one to the other. SRM agreed to the point that it should be made short. MB asked about the currency. SG mentioned that, the point is that any currency means that the stripe will do the conversion. But we do need to stipulate what currency we're taking the donations in. So people understand what they're paying. A lady recently made a donation, and she made a donation in the wrong currency, which was donating more to GWI than she wanted. So we had to refund it and she had to redo it because she made a mistake. So we have to clarify what currency we're accepting. We can accept any currency that will convert that to US dollars. SG mentioned that she like the idea of three specific ones, today we could decide and 105 is the best one. That's the first one.

Sudha mentioned that she like the idea and breaks. Some people would like to donate. She wanted to comment about the currency. At GWI, we are able to accept any currency which converts into our Swiss francs or USD. We have three different currency accounts, Euro, USD and, of course, Swiss francs. So, we can accept, we can give the bank details relevant to those currencies if somebody is struggling. But otherwise, we need to standardize something at our end so people are clear how much rate roughly. If it's the 105th anniversary, 105 us dollars, if equivalent of USD 105 is starting minimum point. But we are open to more donations generously if somebody wants to contribute more so we at our end 105 us dollars would be good.

SDL mentioned that, we really want to stay away from bank transfers. We want people to pay with their credit card through Stripe. and not make a bank transfer because the fees are higher, the failures are greater. And if people could just use a credit card, which 90, we don't get any bank transfers anymore. So she suggested that we just do the link to Stripe. Stripe processes credit cards. It's our credit card processing. You don't need to tell that to anybody. They can say donate here. And when they put in their credit card, it just processes. It's like PayPal.

Sudha mentioned that she would like to support just keep one thing, which is credit card. But she was not sure if that is non-chargeable. SG mentioned that she was strong on money side so that so maybe if either Stacey or Sudha could write a little couple of sentences to her, and she can add it to the next stage.



SDL asked clarification Shirley's saying about the rolling for 24 hours, what does that mean exactly? She put forth a question for the videos to SG ' , that whether there'll be a compilation, like one compiled video of all of the statements that you receive?' She also mentioned that it is intense work.

PWC commented that the investment fund is a good idea, but it's something we need to think about because the name can make all the difference. If we give it the wrong name, we won't attract funders. It is GWI's signature fundraiser.

SDL asked what the investment fund for this conversation is. SG told that she has got some notes on it from Louise Crute and she could send them to SDL.

7. Advocacy and Legal and Governance updates - Shaila and Ujwala SRM mentioned that she was working on the report for the CSW 68 for GWI and Stacey, anyone else that has any reports that came in from the delegates, forward them to her. she would send a detailed paragraph on CSW 68. She mentioned that she is planning two webinars. One will be on the call for resolutions and how to go about that for the triennial that's coming up because it's coming up to that time of the year. and one webinar will be on advocacy. The dates are not quite decided. Probably August and September, but she will put that in her report that she would send out. She is starting to build a relationship with the World Bank and with the IMF to slowly bring their attention to the work GWI doing, so there can be collaboration further on some of GWI projects, some of issues, and hopefully develop that further so we get that support for GWI. She also had some ideas for fund raising, waiting to stagger that after Shirley's, the 105th celebration is done. For May 5th, 6th retreat, if requested, she was happy to put together an agenda and a brief outline of the things that we need to discuss.

She further mentioned that advocacy influencers global advocacy without borders we will be calling two more meetings and identifying key issues that we need to be working on and the a couple of key issues that came up over and over again was the artificial intelligence and also the technology STEM education for women and leadership, leadership opportunities for women and girls. And Beijing Plus 30 is coming up.

PWC mentioned that GWI just won prize from Acquisition International. And this needs to be sent out to all the members.

8. MB mentioned that MemCom members from Canada and Spain were telling that people ask about the progress of the OD process. We have to be constructive in our approach and see that the GA is result oriented and



amicable. SRM mentioned that they want a specific response to the OD process question. We have to be prepared for. PWC mentioned that, We need to all think of a very cogent, persuasive response. We're halfway through, 17 months through the triennium. We've laid the foundation. in the second half, we really need to present it in a way that people and package it in a way that shines out, that makes us... We're living up to our strategic plan. We've just won this prize from Acquisition International. this needs to be sent out to all the members. We have been recognized globally as a network, leading graduate women's network from Acquisition International.

MA mentioned that we need to revisit the train the trainer activity. as a matter of urgency. There is no problem if we engage the lady to market, to help us to market. PWC asked SG if she could help in asking Attila and Pwc further mentioned that she would be happy to write letter to Geeta Desai.

MB said that she would like to have meeting of independent members.

SG mentioned that she had some relationship with Fiji, with Graduate Women Fiji. They've just had their election. And we're doing a combined project with them. The president is fabulous. And they've got a couple of good young members. They're not involved in politics. They just love Graduate Women. They're doing good things. And getting just finally finished, back to Graduate Women Otago, we have just hit 95 members. And we're aiming for 100 this week. have gone from 80 to 95. And the other day, our national president came down. She couldn't believe it. We had about 10 new young members.

YMN - Sudha updated that we have, Growing Together monthly series going on, and the next session in May is on language of dressing. These conversations have been helping young women to build confidence in presenting their work, about their country, their culture and also connecting with other members in similar fields. So, we have this ongoing and YMs feel really good about it.

Sudha suggested to put young members work on the website where new interested young women can see/refer and join the network. Sudha said that we have done a lot in past three years and a lot of record documentation she has that can help connect and engage existing members and grow with new members. She wanted to explore if there is option where we have on the website, it says young members work. So, if

we, are able to put some links or some documents, which Sudha had prepared a few years ago she said she can update and send for website.

Sudha also asked whether there is going to be a GWI CSW report that also covers YMN Parallel event. Sadly, there was no mention of YMN event in the 2022 CSW report despite it being one of the main GWI PE event.

She asked MB about the Bulgaria membership, because she said, we have to keep the record of the paying members, the number of memberships in our financial records, which is the annual report and other places. Bulgaria has not been paying for more than three years now, and this needs attention. MB should send a letter of membership, whether they want to rejoin or they want to leave, they cannot be counted as GWI paid member NFA. Sudha said she would try to look for the contact and forward it to MB. And she would let MB continue further. **ACTION POINT**

MB agreed to write to find out whether they want to continue or not.

9. . MA updated on projects. On the 12th of April, PDC had a meeting to decide on the Bina Roy 2024-2025 project. There were five projects, and we were told that five projects could be funded. However, there was a vote for a sixth project to be funded. And three of the members were there who voted on the sixth project. They were all positive. But there was a caveat. MA asked Sudha whether Turkish NFA have paid up their dues? Sudha answered that they have arrears from last year and nothing paid for this year. MA mentioned that they were the sixth project.

And the caveat was that if they do pay. Sudha mentioned that it was discussed about the alleviations and for the project also, she mentioned that at least the arrears need to be paid. The previous year dues have to be cleared out. In terms of alleviations, it was discussed this matter in FinCom and FinCom agrees that they should clear out arrears.

Education: SG updated about education that Lucia is setting up very shortly a follow-up Zoom meeting with EduCom. A little bit of reflection on the webinar about the importance of museums for women and then what project or what to do next and we got wonderful feedback and down here in New Zealand, there's been suggestions to work at starting a women's museum.



10. Bids for the 35th GWIGA: PWC asked to SDL, if GWI got any bid for 35th GWIGA. There was no bid received answered SDL.

PWC moved to the VPs applications: she mentioned that she did acknowledge the two VP applications for fundraising. She further mentioned that, we need to decide how we're going to deal with it. Normally people don't have trial periods for our organisation. So how are we going to handle that? Are they going to be consultants? Are we going to interview them? What are the next steps?

SG mentioned that the Mexican one was stronger. We ask them each to do a project, like ASAP, and then people know we're doing something. And if they might do a successful project, we've got nothing to lose. To me, we could set it up as a trial or an experiment, We could give them a month and say, come up with something in a month, write a proposal, an actual fundraising. idea one specific and go ahead with it something like that and either do it for both of them or pick one and go forward with one. to re-advertise, going to be a long, slow process. Sudha suggested that, let's move forward with the current applications and then meet them at least. We should interview them.

It was decided with consensus to have interview of the applicants for VP Fundraising. President, Shirley. And Stacey and Shaila constituted an interviewing board. It was settled at 3 p.m. CST, interview of two fundraising candidates on Tuesday, the 30th of April.

For Board retreat SRM was asked to send agenda. Retreat was decided two hours on Monday the 6th., 5 p.m. CST. And then two hours on Wednesday the 8th of May at 10 a.m. CST.

11. Any Other Business: SDL updated that there's been a lot of work coming out of the office and press releases, infographics and toolkits for World Book and Copyright Day, as well as Earth Day, which yesterday was also a webinar at the height of the webinar where she saw one hundred and four participants. She further mentioned that there's been no bids received, other than a conversation that was held at CSW, but there's been no confirmation and no official bid. Last week, she attended a very interesting fundraising meeting in Geneva, sponsored by a foundation that represents multiple foundations. And they were talking about



different ways to reach various funders. It was a really good meeting, informative meeting, some great networking and it was on Tuesday and then on Thursday she attended another one that was more tailored towards funding with the Swiss government and the smaller cantons that might have some funds that they can share. The fellowship committee meeting has met and they're going to be opening up the fellowships in October as we do every triennial. And SDL will be running a two-week fundraising campaign for them like she did three years ago in October for the first two weeks. Thereafter, the office can't run any more fundraising for that because it's a direct conflict for office fundraising. But SDL agreed to get them started with two weeks. The Teachers for Rural Futures program, one of the interns is working on this program as a special project. She's just with GWI a few hours per week, and intern's focusing on this project. And we've been meeting regularly on ways to expand the program that could be interesting to funders. And to dovetail with the Uganda Association Bina Roy project. The idea is being considered that an expansion of the program would be to provide the girls with sanitation pads throughout their university. Probably can get a little would be very expensive, but we could perhaps get some funding for that. And that would give us some new partnerships to talk about for very little commitment from any funder. As Mildred mentioned, I'll just have to add that the Bina Roy the PDC did meet about the Bina Roy projects. And initially we had agreed that five projects could be funded. Perhaps there can be a sixth project. that Turkey was the sixth project, depending on whether they paid or not. if they pay then they can be included in the mix because Turkey has not paid their dues, but the PDC does want to approve there being a right project., The website project, there's been a huge amount of work going on the back end. There is a section plan for the end members. There always has been. It's just the aesthetic part has not been that much tended to right now because the back end in the media library was so heavy and there wasn't really much use in moving on with what's more fun. which is the aesthetic looking part, but there has been about 20,854 files removed from the media library, which has decreased the size and density of our website by close to six gigs. So there's been a huge amount of work done on this effort. It just doesn't show yet, Because we have to clean up the back end before we can really see what we're working with, one, and two, before we can move to the prettier part.



Sudha asked SDL if any update on legacy donation and about CAGI. SDL informed that everything is finally sorted there. It was not a good situation. We were actually blacklisted by Global Giving because we and Patrice and I already had this conversation because of the delay. And it was nothing that that the office did. It was just wasn't really anything anyone did. It was just really bad timing all the way around. But everything is back to normal.

PWC informed that , there is a package, the complimentary package. You don't have to pay anything, but we get listing in the 2024 directory and access to the official press release. Then you have a bronze package, which is £495, full page article, personalized digital logo, personalized digital certificate. She has sent it to all. Then you have the silver package, which is £695, full page, etc. Gold package, platinum package. We can't afford to pay for any of these packages. Sudha commented that, if you think something which is worth enough, of course we can consider paying, but how much is it? PWC informed that ,it starts at £495 for a full-page article, personalized digital logo and personalized digital certificate, right up to just under £3,000, a supported front cover image, two-page article, the bespoke trophy.

There is a silver package of 695, and a gold package of 1295. SDL commented that it is not affordable just for the appearance of kind of buying an award.

SG informed that in relation to the UNESCO award, she wrote, to the New Zealand, it had to be somebody, the nominator had to be something from UNESCO. Because SG has been doing this relationship in New Zealand with the New Zealand Commissioner for UNESCO, SG wrote and asked if they'd nominate GWI, the secretary replied they don't normally, but she would look into it and then could, Stacey wrote a brilliant account of GWI's our two projects. So we are waiting to hear if they will nominate us for the UNESCO Prize. SG's efforts were appreciated in the Board.

With consensus PWC declared the date of next board meeting 24th May 2024 @4 pm CEST.

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



productive meeting.

Next 18th Board Meeting is fixed on Friday 24th MAY @ 4pm CEST

Meeting adjourned: 8:22:34pm CEST

Minutes drafted by US

1. Sudha made a suggestion about the minutes that as in good practice, it would be helpful to address action points in the minutes before them being accepted or approved.... **ACTION POINT**
2. Sudha said she would try to look for the contact and forward it to MB. And she would leave it in MB's hands after that. **ACTION POINT**
3. SG mentioned that she was strong on money side so that so maybe if either Stacey or Sudha could write a little couple of sentences to her, and she can add it to the next stage. **ACTION POINT**