Minutes of the meeting of the GWI Board of officers held on 5th June ,2025 at 6 pm CEST.

Minutes of the Meeting of GWI Board 2022-2025 held on 5th June, 2025,6pm Central European Time (CEST)

Thirtieth Board Meeting

Date: June 5, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM CEST

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Patrice Wellesley Cole (PWC)-President

Meera Bondre (MB)-VP Membership

Shirley Gillet (SG)-VP Education

Stacy Dry Lara-(SDL) Executive Director

Maria Fernanda (MF)-VP Fundraising

Mildred Asmah (MA)-VP Projects

Shaila Rao Mistry (SRM) -VP Advocacy

Karoline Dorsch (KD)-Treasurer

Absent (With apologies)

Ujawala Shinde(US)

Minute 1: Opening

Meeting was called to order at 6.05pm

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

3. Conflict of Interest

4. Adoption of Agenda

5. Updates from Officers

 - Advocacy

 - Fundraising

 - Education

6. Planning for the 35th Triennial

7. Any Other Business

8. Setting Next Meeting Date

Minute 2: Main Business

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Karoline commenced the meeting until Patrice joined and welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed attendance.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes- minutes from April and May to be reviewed and adopted via email by Monday to resolve posting delays.

3. Conflict of Interest

- No conflicts of interest were reported.

4. Adoption of Agenda- Board approved the current meeting agenda unanimously.

Minute 3: Updates from Officers

3.1 Membership Update (Meera)

Meera stated that a new NFA in Benin had applied for membership to GWI and that they had submitted their constitution to the Membership Committee and SDL.

-Benin Graduate Women Association (BAGW) was unanimously approved as new NFA with 25 active members paying 7.50 Swiss francs each

-Invoice to be sent with payment deadline of July 15th (revised from June 30th to allow banking processing time)

-Additional NFA development efforts ongoing in Philippines and Indonesia through independent members

3.2 Financial Update (Karoline)

Karoline highlighted some Financial Updates. She discussed that there is a current deficit situation that had been discussed; nine countries haven't paid dues with three unlikely to pay, though Turkey was expected to contribute significantly.

-GDP PPP analysis had been completed showing increases across all countries, but board decided against raising dues given the current economic climate

-Internal resolutions finalized to eliminate expensive annual audit requirement, saving approximately 4,000-5,000 Swiss francs annually

3.3 Advocacy & Resolutions Committee Update (Shaila/Stacy)

Shaila reiterated the need for revitalisation of GWI Advocacy. She further stated that eight(8) resolutions were finalized for the triennial from Canada (4), New Zealand/Australia (1), WG USA (2), and one additional country.

-Constitutional amendment discussion scheduled for governance committee meeting; town hall meeting request under review due to campaigning restrictions.

-All resolution voting and discussion to occur pre-General Assembly with no floor discussion permitted during triennial.

3.5 Project Updates (Mildred)
Mildred stated that the Second payment installments had been sent to BRPID project recipients; Hegg Hofett seminar was scheduled for June 20th at 6:00 PM CEST with Patrice providing opening remarks

-Fellowship winners had been announced. Stacy added that six international wire transfers processed totaling significant amounts for 2025 recipients.

3.6 Fundraising Updates (Fernanda)

Fernanda mentioned that there has still not been an outcome from the L'Oreal fund. In connection with the new proposal amendment to the Avery foundation, she would wait for further comments from members if any and submit on Monday 14th June, given that the budget allocation is on first come first served basis.

3.6 Fundraising & Special Initiatives (Shirley)
Shirley stated that the Memorial wall fundraising campaign was ongoing with a $50 brick option added; funds to be split three ways: projects, historical documentation, and Zambia attendance support. Members agreed that this was to be decided by the GWI Board.

-Board discussion was required regarding precedent for individual board members determining fund allocation versus organizational decision-making.

3.7 Operational Updates/Office matters (Stacy)
Stacy provided a comprehensive office management report covering project payments, fellowship distributions, advocacy submissions, and membership support activities

-Multiple infographic campaigns completed for Menstrual Hygiene Day and upcoming World Refugee Day, child labour with some sent from Spanish translation.

-Regular communications maintained through Sunday Scoop, Trivia Tuesday, and Fundraising Friday social media campaigns.

-Press release for 2025 Fellowship winners and wire transfers.

-Letter written to South Africa the winner of the Dr Meeta Fund. Subsequently apology letters sent to Thailand, Uganda and Egypt with an advice to them to consider applying to the 2026/2027 call for BRPID applications following the criteria.

-CSW 69 critical Analysis report published on behalf of Shaila in the newsletter

-Independent Member flyer prepared for the four-part series

-Hegg Hoffet 20th June flyer designed and payments made for one grantee's books and classes.

-Final report prepared with Karoline and the Accountant.

-Filing of Taxes had been done with the Accountant.

-2025 Global citizens Waislitz application about GWI efforts for eradication of poverty, prepared and submitted by SDL and PWC.

-Global giving report for the Girls education For Brighter Futures report prepared.

-Regular team meeting with intern

-Website revised auto responses and Contact Us.

-Oversight relationship between Swiss Government and CAGI for GWI legal filling enhanced.

3.8 General Overview

-Young Members Network workshop format approved in principle; SUDA to submit triennial report by July deadline.

-Pre-triennial financial presentation was rejected to maintain attendance at the General Assembly; budget discussion timing remains unchanged.

-Workshop submission deadline extended to June 22; 14-15 submissions received from countries including El Salvador and Nigeria, with final line-up due by June 30.

-Proxy voting system will be used for triennial elections, opting out of electronic voting to manage costs; two presidential candidates confirmed: Pat Patton and Giselle.

-Benin Graduate Women Association approved as new NFA with 25 members; payment deadline revised to July 15 for financial processing.

-Current financial situation indicates nine countries have unpaid dues; Turkey expected to contribute significantly; no dues increase planned due to economic climate.

-Eight resolutions for the triennial finalized, with voting scheduled pre-General Assembly without floor discussions during the event.

-Six fellowship winners announced; significant funds processed for 2025 recipients with BRPID seminar scheduled for June 20.

-Memorial wall fundraising campaign ongoing with $50 brick option introduced: board to discuss fund allocation precedent in future meeting.

3.8 35th Triennial Conference Planning - CFUW Suggestions

-Young Members Network Presentation: Approved in principle with workshop format; SUDA to submit triennial report by July deadline.

-Pre-triennial GWI Financial Presentation: Rejected after discussion - board agreed to present finances during General Assembly only to avoid reducing attendance.

-Budget Discussion Timing: Request to move budget discussion to Business Session 4 declined - will remain in current position as it has worked effectively in previous triennials.

-NFA/Independent Member Strategy Session: 90-minute request deemed too long; board suggests 45-minute off-site meeting with 10-15 minute report back, pending further clarification from Canada.

3.8.1 Conference Workshop Updates (Shirley)

-Workshop submission deadline extended to June 22nd due to flight planning concerns and additional requests.

-Currently 14-15 workshop papers received from various countries including El Salvador, Nigeria, New Zealand, Australia, and multiple from Zambia.

-Final workshop lineup with titles, presenters, and 100-word summaries due to Stacy by June 30th for General Assembly booklet.

3.8.2 Nominations & Voting Procedures (Stacy)

-Nomination Committee meeting held June 3rd with 6 of 11 members attending; committee requested board job descriptions and candidate summaries.

-Two presidential candidates confirmed: Pat Patton (Canada) and Giselle (Ireland) - correction made regarding Ranjana from India who is running for committee position, not president.

-Nine people registered for triennial as of meeting date; no hybrid options available but individual recording by presenters will be supported

-Proxy voting system will be used instead of electronic voting to manage costs and logistics.

3.9 Action items

3.9.1 All Board Members

-Review and approve April and May minutes by Monday via email adoption process.

3.9.2 Patrice

-Resend April and May minutes to all board members after meeting .

-Provide opening remarks for Hegg Hoffet seminar on June 20th at 6:00 PM CEST.

-Write to Ujwala requesting final versions of pending minutes for website posting.

3.9.3 Stacy

-Contact SUDA about submitting triennial report by July deadline for young member's network .

-Send voting delegate allocation list to board members based on membership numbers.

-Distribute resolutions document to board when received from Cats for review and approval.

-Update website with new Zambia accommodation and tour information over weekend.

-Send invoice to Benin NFA with July 15th payment deadline .

3.9.4 Shirley

-Provide final workshop lineup with titles, presenters, and 100-word summaries by June 30th .

-Send corrections for April minutes by end of day/tomorrow.

3.9.5 Karoline

-Send voting delegate allocation list to board showing member numbers and permitted delegates.

-Process invoice for Benin NFA once address and final member count confirmed.

3.9.6 Meera

-Confirm final member count (25) with Benin NFA for invoice processing .

3.10Next Board Meeting

-Final board meeting scheduled: Monday, July 28th at 8:00 AM CEST (7:00 AM London time) to accommodate travel schedules and time zone considerations.

3.11 Minute 7: Closing

The meeting concluded with a reminder of the importance to register for the conference. Meeting was adjourned to **July 28th,2025.**

Patrice Wellesley Cole	**For: Mildred Asmah**
Chairperson	**Recorder**