Graduate Women International
Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

Minutes of the Meeting of GWI Board 2022-2025 held on 15th April,2025,4pm Central European Time (CEST)

Twenty Eighth Board Meeting

Date: April 15, 2025

Time: 4:00 PM CEST

Location: Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Patrice Wellesley Cole (PWC)-President

Meera Bondre (MB)-VP Membership

Shirley Gillett (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

Ujawala

Minute 1: Opening

Meeting was called to order at 4.05pm

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

- Patrice welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed attendance.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

- Members noted that the minutes from the January meeting had earlier been approved and published.

3. Conflict of Interest

- No conflicts of interest were reported.

4. Adoption of Agenda- The agenda was adopted as presented.

Minute 3: Updates from Officers

3.1 Membership Update (Meera)

MemCom proposal for clarification or consideration (MB)

1.Advocacy committee (SDL stated that Advocacy could be an appointed committee rather than by elections because all other committees are appointed and could be at the discretion of the VP Advocacy. Education and PDC committees are standing committees. As to whether Advocacy and Resolutions committee could be combined was also discussed. Members noted they were separate committees. SDL mentioned that the Resolutions Committee is strictly for policy resolutions and active in the process as follows:

- review policy resolution passed in Zambia

-Policy resolution mainly for advocacy programmes and strategic plans shared and presented to membership as done in the past

-Collection of all policy resolutions formatted, and presented to membership for wordsmithing at a webinar is the final stage.

- there is now NO policy discussions at the General assembly.

2 VP Marketing and Fundraising committee's chairs vacant for some time(SDL

Stated that VP for Fundraising is supposed to be part of the Fellowship committee (SDL, Fellowships committee is very active at this time of year and had scheduled a meeting for 16th April which she could participate) VP fundraising could emulate the previous VPs strategy of setting up a committee for a specific task and disbanding it upon completion. There is nothing in the constitution that establishes that fundraising and marketing should have committees that require constitutional amendments.

4.GWI NFAs Dues consideration fund (SDL stated that a caring Canadian group who were to assist NFAs who couldn't pay their dues to do so by organising external fundraising however has been put on hold in order to put proper structures in place.

5.Special purpose committees in Article 2 item 11 of the constitution (SDL mentioned that Independent Members had come together were organising a webinar as. an integral part of GWI just as The Young Members network does. All groups or networks may be established and appointed to report to the Board and dissolved unless otherwise stated in their terms of reference. Under the guidance of the VP membership one member each will be invited to MemCom as a constitutional amendment. Members were to consider a constitutional amendment of adding two words to the constitution which are made for purpose,

SDL clarified issues on points that were for internal resolutions to put an end to the discussion or bring it for a discussion later on, from the Board and those from Resolution process by the Resolutions committee.

3.2Advocacy Update (Shaila)

- A detailed analysis of CSW 69 was presented, focusing on revitalization and the political declaration.

- Emphasis was placed on the need for a careful approach to advocacy in the light of current political climates affecting women's rights in the United States and other countries.

-Report including best ways to adapt advocacy in current climates to be sent to Stacy soon

- mention of recently held Women Graduates town hall meetings for advocacy were made. SRM commended the President for her participation.

3.3 Fundraising Update (Fernanda)

- Fernanda reported progress on applications for the L'Oreal Fund and Avery Dennison Foundation, seeking a total of $85,000 for the Bina Roy Partners in Development programme.

- Updates on grantee progress were shared, with reminders for upcoming deadlines.

3.4 Education Update (Mildred)

- Mildred shared updates on the Hegg Hoffet projects, confirming ongoing activities and upcoming webinars.

- The next call for applications is expected soon.

SG shared that EDUCOM were very happy with the CSW 69 FtF PE and were meeting soon

3.5. Planning for the 35th Triennial (Karoline)

- Karoline provided an overview of the budget, estimating costs at approximately $58,000 and the input Fincom had made.

- A discussion on registration fees ensued, Karoline had 2 options: $ 290 for 200 projected attendees or 350 for 150 attendees. This followed with a proposal for a fee of 350 Swiss Francs for 150 participants vis a vis 200 participants to 290 swiss francs. On a vote SG was the only one who voted for the $290 but agreed to adjust to the $350 so as to hurry up finalising and getting the rego out. Members agreed that instead of giving discounts to African participants, discounts will be offered to volunteers by giving them vouchers. Patrice, Shirley Karoline, Meera,

Fernanda, Mildred were in agreement that the fees be set at 150.However Shaila suggested that we needed to look into it one more step.

- The board agreed to finalize the registration fee, and further discussions were planned to ensure all concerns were addressed.

Minute 4. Any Other Business

- Discussions on the implications of men participating in women's sports were raised, with a consensus to defer decisions to the board for further consideration.

Minute 5. Setting Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting was scheduled for May 12, 2025, at 7:00 PM CEST.

Minute 6: Action Points

1. Shaila to finalize and circulate the report on CSW 69 for feedback.
2. Fernanda to send out the applications for the L'Oreal Fund and Avery Dennison Foundation for review.
3. Mildred to provide a report on the Hegg Hoffet/ projects by the next meeting.
4. Karoline to ensure the registration fee is communicated effectively and address any member concerns.
5. All Members to review and provide feedback on the registration fee decision by the next meeting.
6. Stacy to work on the logistics of the upcoming webinars and meetings.

Minute 7: Closing

The meeting concluded with a reminder of the importance of collaboration and communication among members. Everyone was encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns before the next scheduled meeting. Meeting was adjourned to **May 12th,2025.**

Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

Patrice Wellesley Cole	**For :Ujawala**
Chairperson	**Recorder**