



# Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet)

President: Dr Jennifer Strauss AM

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## Minutes of the Electronic Council Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup>-21st December 2009

### 1. Opening and welcome

The President, Jenny Strauss opened the meeting and welcomed members and observers. IFUW President, Louise Croot and IFUW General Secretary, Leigh Bradford Ratteree, sent warm wishes for a successful Council Meeting to members and observers.

### 2. Attendance

AFGW: Jennifer Strauss, Dalma Jacobs, Jane Baker (observer) Deborah Haydon (observer, minute taker)

ATUW: Polotu Fakafanua-Paunga, Salote Fukofuka, Olivina Mulikha'amea Tu'iono (observer)

FAWG: Annabel Boud, Senimili Vukikomoala, Akanisi Kedrayate (observer)

NZFGW: Dot Page, Claire Mathewson, Linda Robertson (observer), Stephanie Hutchinson (observer).

Dorothy Meyer (Convener, IFUW Status of Women Committee, observer) Beverley Turner (IFUW PGWNet Adviser, observer)

SAWG: Maryann Lameko, Susana Tauaa, Niusila Faamanatu-eteuati (observer)

SIGWA: Ruth Maekala

PNGFUW: Angela Mandie-Filer (observer)

IFUW Vice President: Shirley Randell (observer)

### Apologies

FAWG: Lily Vesikula

### 3 Minutes of 2008 Council meeting (circulated)

**Moved:** that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September, at Liku'alofa Beach, Tonga be taken as a true record (Jacobs, AFGW/Fukofuka, ATUW) CARRIED.

### 4 Business arising from Minutes( if not covered elsewhere) None

### 5 Reports

#### 5.1 Executive Reports

Jenny noted that the reports from the President and CIR were covered for the most part in the AFGW Report. Jenny also noted that in her report para 3, line 4 should have read Cynthia McKenzie (NZFGW) not Claire Mathewson (NZFGW) as present at the AFUW Triennial Conference.

Dalma added the following points to the report:

- AFGW members were saddened by the losses of life and property in Samoa and Tonga on 30 September and sent messages of sympathy to SAWG and ATUW, and contributed to the Tsunami Relief Appeals arranged in Australia.

- AFGW members in Brisbane continue to collect and transport stationery to support schools near the Marovo Lagoons in the Solomons. They are able to do this through a member (Christine Buckius) who is undertaking PhD research on Beche de Mer with a University of Queensland (UQ) team. Christine has also assisted a project team from UQ that has involvement with the One UN Laptop project per student project. See [http://wiki.laptop.org/go/OLPC\\_Solomon\\_Islands](http://wiki.laptop.org/go/OLPC_Solomon_Islands).

#### **5.1.2 Recommendation by the Treasurer:**

That PGWNet dues be suspended until reinstated by Council was approved as part of the approval of the Report.

#### **Item 5.3 Report of the PGWNet Adviser** was taken at this point.

Beverly's triennial report (2006-2009) showed that despite many Pacific women graduates juggling considerable extended family responsibilities as well as high personal workloads in demanding professional positions, by using all the tools of modern communication technology, we can come together over wide distances to achieve our goals.

**Moved:** that the Executive Reports and the Report of the IFUW Adviser be received (Strauss, AFGW/Page, NZFGW) CARRIED.

#### **5.2 Member Associations**

Moved: that the circulated reports from AFGW, FAWG, NZFGW and SAWG be approved (Strauss, AFGW/Jacobs, AFGW) CARRIED. It was noted by the Chair that the report from ATUW would follow the Meeting.

### **6 Amendments to the Constitution**

Concerns were expressed that the Constitution must be inclusive, unambiguous and readily understood. It must also line up with the IFUW constitution even if the realities of cooperation across small nations may be difficult to achieve – the opportunity to cooperate must not be compromised.

The issue of membership itself required considerable discussion. It was decided to roll it together with **7 Discussion of possibility of smaller national associations forming a group for the purpose of affiliating with IFUW**. Ultimately it was determined that getting the PGWNet Constitution Article 4 Membership to accurately reflect the requirements of the organization was the more pressing requirement.

The final, unanimously approved version of the PGWNet Constitution is attached to these minutes.

### **8 PGWNet Action Plan**

As NZFGW noted, this important document is admirably crisp and focused however, it needs to be updated regularly.

AFGW commits the following:

1. To improve communications and increase the profile of PGWNet by working with IFUW to create a website that will include information about and links to every PGWNet member.
2. We pledge to try to build up contact with and support for Solomon Islands and PNG.
3. We undertake to urge our State and Territory Associations to try to welcome and assist any students from member countries who are studying at universities in Australia.

NZFGW commits to the following:

1. To improve communications and increase the profile of PGWNet, we undertake to collaborate with AFGW in support of a website that will include information about and links to every PGWNet member.
2. To strengthen PGWNet links with graduate women, Pasifika students and Pacific women's organizations in New Zealand, NZFGW undertakes to review and revise the RAP, Row 3 (objectives, outcomes, activities and evidence).
3. NZFGW would, if it were the will of the PGWNet Council, be happy to take its due turn in chairing PGWNet from 2010 to 2012.

SAWG commits to the following:

1. We will support efforts in increasing PGWNet's profile through the creation of a website that will be linked to IFUW by providing either a link to SAWG's updated website and/or providing updated information required such as executive officers, emails, newsletters etc.
2. SAWG will commit to strengthening PGWNet NFAs by increasing its membership through personal contact, marketing and public profiling.
3. SAWG will also commit to maintaining and where possible initiating more national projects which will benefit women and girls. Please note that we have already applied and won funding from the Bina Roy Funding for our Scholarship project. This will be executed in the new year.

## **9 PGWNet website**

Jenny Strauss undertook to work with Anamaria Vere who has offered to host a PGWNet website on the IFUW site as happens for the European group.

The website would contain:

- Statement of purpose and eligibility for membership – as per the PGWNet constitution
- List of national members, their office bearers and contact address
- Link to existing websites of members
- Reports to PGWNet Council
- How we manage electronic conferencing
- A “what's happening” page
- Some examples of interaction – e.g. the bag, projects, scholarship donations
- Photos – e.g. 2008 Council meeting in Tonga, Fijian delegation to the AFGW conference in 2009

## **10 IFGW Conference**

Dorothy Meyer reported that the IFUW Board is planning a major change to the way the Programme for Action (PfA) for the next triennium is developed. Instead of being largely devised by the Status of Women Committee (SWC) and handed down at Conference, a process has been set in train for the membership to identify the areas of action they see as important and the ways in which action might be taken. This process was started by a questionnaire that went out to NFAs asking them to identify their priorities. After a further series of consultations, the final step will be at Conference, where ideas to contribute to the PfA will be gathered from the seminars, workshops and discussion sessions planned as parallel sessions to the business ones. To facilitate this gathering, there will be a new role for members in Conference, to act as rapporteurs to gather the ideas and convey them quickly to the Conference staff so that they can be available before Conference ends.

Proposed attendance at the IFUW Conference 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> August 2010:

NZFGW: Louise Croot (IFUW President), Dorothy Meyer, Rae Duff, Dot Page, Claire Mathewson, Joy Dunsheath. There are other likely attendances as yet unconfirmed.

AFGW: Jane Baker, Jenny Strauss, Tricia Blombery, plus others as yet unconfirmed

ATUW and SAWG: No one at this stage

## **11 Any other business**

- **Change of name for AFUW**

At its 34<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference in November 2009, the Australian Federation of University Women changed its name to the Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW). This change reflects the change to its membership requirements.

- **NZFGW offer to chair PGWNet 2010 – 2012**

NZFGW has kindly offered to chair PGWNet when AFGW's term ceases in November 2010 and the offer has been gratefully endorsed by AFGW, FAWG and SAWG.

## **12 Close of Meeting**

After thanking all for their cooperation, the President closed the meeting at 10 am, 21 December 2009.