



NEWSLETTER

Highlights of the 2014 AGM



International
Federation of
University
Women

STATE
AFFILIATES



AFGW-ACT



AFGW NSW Inc.



Graduate Women
Queensland Inc.



GWSA



GW-Vic



GW-WA Inc

The 2014 Annual General Meeting was held in Adelaide Saturday 8th November. One of the most significant issues discussed by at the AGM is the proposal to rename IFUW. President Catherine Bell suggested Graduate Women International as the new name, believing that it is a more accurate and contemporary alternative to the current name. The new name reflects the organisations widened membership criteria, complements the re-branded and contemporary face of IFUW and is an integral component of a push to increase membership from a wider group of graduates. The AFGW Council voted to endorse the name change and instructed the AFGW delegates CIR Lynda Roberts-Hall, President Madeleine Laming, Secretary Jennifer Jones and Hon. Business Manager Merle Thompson to vote accordingly.

When the motion for the name change was put by the IFUW Board, the supporting documentation was at pains to emphasise that the Board considered it crucial to establish a new “brand” name for the organisation before publicity started for the 2016 Conference, which would be a major international Conference designed to establish and make visible the organisation’s authority to speak on education for girls and women. Conference would no longer handle the organisation’s internal business: that would be done in a General Assembly meeting held separately immediately before Conference. It is important to note that if approved, NFAs and branches do not need to change their titles.

The online discussion between NFAs, not surprisingly, showed that not everyone wanted the change. The Dutch Association, who moved an amendment that the name should be IFUW Graduate Women International. AFGW’s delegates voted against the amendment as Council had already voted unanimously vote in favour of Graduate Women International.

Continuing the international flavour of the discussion, CIR Lynda Roberts- Hall spoke briefly to her PGWNet report. This dealt with the meeting in Suva. Lynda felt that it was inspiring working with women from the Pacific because of the many issues they faced, including natural disasters, poverty and domestic violence.

Update: The IFUW circular (19/3) announced that the name change was approved with a 70% majority.

For your diary in 2015

April: Newsletter

May: 5-6 ERA planning days
in Melbourne

July: AFGW National Council
meets in Melbourne

August: Newsletter

October : AGM and Council
meeting in Perth

November: Newsletter

Call for Expressions of Interest

AFGW would like to hear from members who are interested in becoming one of AFGW’s two eS4W representatives.

Please contact me if you are interested.

afgwpresident@gmail.com

Madeleine Laming

November 2014 Council meeting

Council had received a commission from the AGM to approve the amended wording of clause 20(3) and so considered and approved an amendment to that clause in the constitution. Council also considered the wording of by-law 6 which related to the AFGW Fellowships. The wording of this by-law needs to keep actual trustee duties separate from duties of our representative.

Madeleine Laming reported that proposal to readmit the NT Association will not proceed. Examination of the NT constitution showed that the proposed Association would be constituted as a transnational organisation with members in Timor-Leste and the Northern Territory. This is not compatible with the requirements of AFGW and IFUW. Madeleine wished the new organisation well.

March 2015 Council Meeting

At the March Council meeting, President Madeleine Laming outlined her activities in the first 2 months of the year. On behalf of AFGW she endorsed the CEDAW shadow report and the AFGW was invited to make another submission on the Higher Education Reform bill, but no additional submission was made. NGO Report to the UN Committee Against Torture.

CIR Lynda Roberts-Hall reported that IFUW is seeking tax-exempt status, a move that requires IFUW to change the dissolution clause in its constitution. After discussing the implications of this move, the AFGW Council decided that it should take urgent action to facilitate this process. IFUW must have the ability to obtain corporate and private sponsorship for its general management and to make this a reasonable process, donations must be tax deductible.

Highlighting the need to recruit new members, Hon. Business Manager Merle Thompson reported that AFGW membership is down, and we have not yet achieved the baseline of 550 memberships on which the current budget is based. On a more positive note, Merle reported that AFGW had saved a considerable sum by paying capitation fees to Geneva early, before Switzerland uncapped the exchange rate between the franc and Euro. In response, Council expressed its appreciation warmly

Council members were also pleased to hear that new constitution has been approved by Fair Trading NSW. It is now available on the website and has been forwarded to IFUW.

In other discussions, Council considered the advisability of writing to congratulate prominent women who receive awards such as the Order of Australia, as some are not eligible to join AFGW. Also, Council confirmed the set date for the 2015 AGM as the 24th October, in Perth. Members will be kept informed about arrangements as they are put in place.

Preparing for the AGM

This year marks the end of the triennium; delegates to the AGM on October 24th will be voting for a new executive and for other positions including convenors of the standing committees. On behalf of the current executive, I would encourage all members to think about nominating for one or the national positions.

Details of the process, including dates will be included in the next newsletter; however it is not too soon for branches and STAs to begin thinking about issues or topics that might be presented to the AGM and possibly to the international conference and general assembly in Cape Town in 2016.

IFUW Launches Education Manifesto

In January, IFUW launched its five education manifestos for the education of girls and women Geneva. Four of the five IFUW manifestos examine specific steps in the education cycle: secondary education, tertiary education, continuing education and non-traditional education, identifying and addressing the distinctive challenges facing girls and women. The fifth manifesto, *Education for All* provides a succinct overview of the necessity to educate girls and women generally. *Education for All* emphasises that access to education is both an internationally recognised human right, as well as a fundamental enabler to achieve economic growth, human development, peace and stability. They recognise that girls and women are particularly vulnerable and many need increased support to access quality secondary, tertiary and continuing education and acknowledge that investing in education for girls and women through their life course is critical to reduce inequality and to stimulate development.

Executive Director of IFUW, Danièle Castle opened the event, which was attended by representatives from diplomatic missions, international organisations including United Nations bodies, non-governmental organisations, academics and members of the public with an interest in education and women's rights. The launch provided a platform for IFUW to share its position on how and why it is working towards increasing lifelong learning for all girls and women worldwide. The five manifestoes are available on the IFUW website:

<http://www.ifuw.org/home-who-we-are/ifuw-manifestos/>

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