

## IrFUW Council Meeting 19th October 2019

Long Room Hub Trinity College. 3.45pm

# Draft

### Minutes

**Present:-**UCD WGA: Frances Patton IrFUW President, Colette Grant, Annette Durkan, Niamh Hynes, Margaret Watchorn, Nuala Ryan, Elizabeth Dowling IrFUW Secretary. TWG: Martina Mulrine, Marion Courtney-McKillen, Teresa Trainor, Veronica Campbell, Anne Headly, Majella Kelleher, Mary Morrissey, Corinna Salvadori, Theresa Kearney, Angie Mezzetti, Deirdre Ahern, Meadhbh Hand, Grace O'Malley. QWG: Oonagh Ferrity, Isobel Benson, Anne Hunter, Leighanne Montgomery. GWG: Máire O Connell.

**1. Apologies:-** Madeline Nesbitt, Kristina Odlum, Anita Begley, Marie Flatley, Bernadette Doyle, Mary Horkan, Margaret Donaghey. Jean Corbett.

**2. Welcome:-** The President, Frances Patton welcomed everyone and congratulated TWG President Angie Mezzetti and her team on a most successful and enjoyable Conference.

**3. Matters Arising from minutes of previous Council Meeting 2nd March 2019:-**

The President drew members attention to item 4 ; *“that Association Vice Presidents might be in charge of archives or that each Association could nominate a suitable person.”*

The Minutes were adopted. Proposed : Máire O'Connell , Seconded: Colette Grant .  
President to sign later.

**4. Correspondence:-** No items of correspondence for discussion.

**5. President's Report:-** President presented her Report. She noted that this is the first Council Meeting of the new IrFUW Triennium, 2019-2022. She congratulated Past President Mary Morrissey for her work for the Federation in Ireland, in Europe with UWE and internationally with GWI members. She outlined her hopes for the coming three years with each Association continuing its programme of Social Events for its members and Sponsorship of Education Projects. Since taking office, she has attended a number of Association events including the QWG Annual Dinner in Belfast and the GWI Triennial Conference in Geneva. She spoke about the Social Programme of the Geneva Conference and praised Dr Máire O'Connell who acted as both CIR and CER for IrFUW. The UWE AGM was also held during the Conference weekend and the highlight of this event for our delegates was the presenting of the Jans Gremmée Award to Dr Marion Gibson.  
President's Report attached.

**6. Treasurer's Report:-** The Report was prepared by the former Treasurer Grainne Keane on behalf of the incoming Treasurer due to the unexpected unavailability of the new Treasurer, Anita Begley. The Report was circulated to members and approved.

Proposed: Grace O'Malley , Seconded : Theresa Kearney.  
Treasurer's Report attached.

**7. CIR Report:-** Grace O'Malley's Report was tabled and will be available to all members on the website. It refers to the 33rd Triennial General Assembly held in Geneva in July 2019 and it

includes the names of the newly elected Board of Directors, Committee Members and Committee Convenors. CIR Report Attached.

**8. CER Report:-** Máire O'Connell presented Reports on the GWI Conference Geneva 2019 and the UWE AGM 2019. She represented IrFUW as both CIR and CER. She spoke of the valuable contribution of Marion Courtney-McKillen who attended in her capacity as a member of the GWI Membership Committee. Resolutions discussed at the Conference are available on the members section of the GWI website.

UWE president Anne Nègre reported that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which had been the subject of discussion with NFA's had been agreed with the Israel Association of University Women. She confirmed that if any further application for an MOU was received, it would be circulated to NFA's for their observations before any decision was made.

Fees for 2020 are to remain the same at €1 per person.

The IrFUW was asked if it is prepared to host a *Meet and Greet* in 2020. The UWE Conference 2020 will be held in Paris from 18-20 September.

The President thanked Máire O'Connell for doing two jobs in Geneva and for her Reports.

CER Report attached.

**9. Newsletter Report:-** Leighanne Montgomery presented her first Newsletter Report as Editor. Leighanne paid tribute to Martina Mulrine for her tremendous work as Editor for the past five years and for creating a detailed handover that serves as the backbone of newsletter planning. Leighanne is joined on the editorial team by Aoife Price and they are seeking a third member. Any member who is interested should get in touch. There was no September newsletter and it is hoped that the October newsletter will issue before the end of this month.

Newsletter Report attached.

**10. Website Report:-** The President addressed the content of this Report in Heather Elliott's absence. Heather suggested that the content from the Associations was dated and she asked that each Association meet and discuss its content and decide on changes by the end of November. Heather mentioned the need for the inclusion of a privacy notice on the website. Frances referred to a discussion between herself, Heather and Elizabeth Dowling the previous afternoon about how the website might be improved.

Website Report attached.

**11. Association Reports :-** Report tabled from GWG; UCD WGA Report presented by Niamh Hynes ; QWG Report presented by Isobel Benson; and TWG Report presented by Angie Mezzetti. Association Reports attached.

**12. NWCI Report:-** Report was presented by Nuala Ryan IrFUW Representative on The National Women's Council Of Ireland. At the AGM of NWCI in June 2019, the motion submitted by the IrFUW was successful.

On 8th March 2019, International Women's Day, The Irish Government finally ratified the 'Council Of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence'.

NWCI played a leading role in the European Elections, Local Elections and the Divorce Referendum, held on 24th May 2019.

In July NWCI launched their pre-budget submission *2020 Equality now: Invest in Women*, and clearly outlined 7 priorities to be addressed. Several useful websites are included in the Report and the *Annual Report 2018 Women Making History* is recommended and available on the website of NWCI.

The President thanked Nuala for her comprehensive Report and for her work in representing IrFUW on NWCI. Mention was made of an offer from a TWG member to inform Trinity Women Graduates of events on NWCI.

NWCI Report attached.

**13. N.I. Women's Forum Report:-** This Report is not yet available and will be put on the website when we receive it and a copy will be attached to the Minutes.

**14. Meet and Greet, GWISB, and May Social Event:-**

IrFUW has been asked to hold a Meet and Greet event in 2020. Mary Morrissey proposed that we would combine the Meet and Greet with a GWISB meeting and with the Annual IrFUW May Event. It was agreed that as GWISB is purely a social event without any formal meeting or officers, it can be combined with the Meet and Greet and IrFUW May event. The next UWE Annual Conference is to be held in Paris in September 2020 which is very close to the date of the IrFUW Annual Conference in October 2020. It was agreed that the October Conference is an important established event not to be changed. UCD WGA will host the October Conference in 2020.

A combined Meet and Greet, GWISB and IrFUW May Event will be held in Dublin in May 2020. Niamh said that planning should start immediately. The President sought volunteers from QWG, TWG and UCD WGA to make up a subcommittee which will organise the event. Niamh Hynes, Oonagh Ferrity, Margaret Watchorn, Frances Patton and Leighanne Montgomery volunteered for the subcommittee. Contact will be made with Catriona Sutherland to discuss her 'masterplan'. It is hoped that in view of the European aspect of the event, we may benefit from some Government Funding, perhaps in the form of a Reception in the EU Offices in Mount Street or in Dublin Castle.

**15. Public Speaking Competition:-**

Theresa Kearney has taken on the running of this event from Annette Durkan. Majella Kellegher has volunteered to replace Madeline Nesbit. The final of the Competition is to be held in UCD on 14th March 2020. Theresa will contact UCD to arrange the venue. Máire O'Connell said that the topics will be with the Associations within a few weeks. It was noted that March 14th will also be the date of the UCD WGA Annual Dinner.

**16. Virginia Gildersleeve, Hegg Hoffet and Bina Roy Reports:-**

It was proposed that we stop supporting the Virginia Gildersleeve Fund.  
Proposed: Oonagh Ferrity, Seconded: Niamh Hynes. Proposal accepted.

**17. A.O.B.**

No items for discussion

The President thanked TWG President Angie Mezzetti and her team for hosting a very successful IrFUW Annual Conference.

The next Council Meeting will take place in Belfield on 14th March 2020 on the morning of the Final of the Public Speaking Competition.