IFUW

CIRCULAR 3/2008
July 2008

Written Vote of Council to Approve the Admission of the Women Graduates-USA, Inc

The IFUW Membership Committee is recommending the admission of a new association in the USA – the Women Graduates-USA, Inc. Admission of new groups must be approved by the IFUW Council. National federations and associations are asked to participate in the written vote of Council on this issue. Background information on the group follows on the next page.

Your CIR will receive the ballot. She must complete, sign and return the ballot to IFUW Headquarters by post or fax no later than 30 September 2008.

Who can vote?	One Council Member from each national federation and association (NFA) having paid its dues up to and including the current year is entitled to vote. The IFUW President, four Vice-Presidents and IFUW Treasurer can also vote. The Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) is automatically the Council Member for all written votes. (By-law 7.4). If your national federation or association has not paid its dues on or before 30 September 2008, your NFA cannot vote.
Who receives the documentation?	The official circular and any background papers are automatically sent to all national presidents, CIRs and secretaries by e-mail. .
Who receives the ballot?	The ballot is sent direct to the CIR.
Who signs the ballot paper?	To be valid, the ballot must be signed by the CIR.
What quorum is needed	The quorum is the representatives of one third of the national federations and associations, and two members of the Board of Officers. (By-law 10.4)
What vote is required for approval?	The decision of the Council shall be by a simple majority. In the case of a tied vote, the proposal shall be deemed rejected. (By-law 10.1)
How will the vote be conducted?	**After first consulting her national leadership, the CIR should complete, sign, date and return the ballot paper to IFUW Headquarters in Geneva.** **The ballot papers must reach IFUW Headquarters by post or fax no later than 30 September 2008.**

NFA leaders with questions, either about the procedure or the issues to be decided, should contact IFUW Headquarters via e-mail, fax or telephone.

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IFUW Membership Committee Brief

Issue
According to the IFUW Constitution, it is the prerogative of the Membership Committee to bring applications for membership in IFUW before Council for discussion and vote.

The IFUW Membership Committee has examined the By-Laws provided by the Women Graduates-USA, Inc. The Committee has pleasure in confirming that the WG-USA statutes are in compliance with the principles of IFUW.

The Membership Committee recommends to Council that the Women Graduates-USA, Inc be admitted to membership.

Background

At the 28th IFUW Conference in Perth, the American Association of University Women announced that it would cease paying dues to IFUW. In June 2007, AAUW removed all reference to IFUW from its constitution, with the exception of reciprocity. As a consequence of this last action, the 29th IFUW Conference in Manchester voted in August 2007 to rescind AAUW's membership, effective immediately.

A group of nearly 75 women met during the AAUW Convention to discuss the possible organization of a new association of women graduates in the USA, one with an interest in global affairs. A second series of meetings were held in Manchester, England, with 30 women in attendance. This group decided to move ahead with the founding of a new group of women graduates, with the objective of affiliating with IFUW.

The organizational meeting and election of officers of the new group, Women Graduates-USA, was held in New York City on 25 October 2007. Legal incorporation took place on 2 January 2008, in the state of Iowa, USA.

Women Graduates-USA is a non-profit corporation for the purpose
1] to promote international cooperation, friendship, peace and respect for human rights for all irrespective of their age, race, nationality, religion, political opinion, gender and sexual orientation;
2] to advocate for the advancement of the status of all women and girls;
3] to encourage and enable all women and girls to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision making in all forms of public life; and
4] to promote lifelong education for all women and girls.

Currently the organisation has 110 members; its goal is to have 200 members by the end of 2008. While WG-USA includes members of the American Association of University Women, it is a separate group and is also reaching out to other women graduates who support the aims and activities of IFUW.

Hazel Bowen
Convener, Membership Committee