



*CIRCULAR 13/2006*  
*September 2006*

To: Presidents, CIRs and Secretaries of National Federations and Association

From: IFUW Headquarters

**Subject: Written Vote of Council on Admission of the Scottish Federation of University Women**

A new association has formed in Scotland comprised of local associations that have, until now, been members of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG). This new group, the Scottish Federation of University Women, has applied for separate affiliation in IFUW.

According to Article II.2 of the IFUW Constitution, IFUW can admit only one federation or association per country, except in special circumstances. After careful consideration, the Membership Committee is recommending that the Council approve this request under the special circumstances clause.

We are sending you separately a brief from the Membership Committee providing background and their reasons. Both the British Federation and the Scottish Federation were consulted; their comments have been incorporated in the brief.

Griselda Kenyon, IFUW President, and Marianne Haslegrave, IFUW Membership Committee Convener, abstained from participation in these discussions, as both are members of the British Federation.

Following the advice of IFUW's constitutional advisers, NFAs will be given an opportunity on the ballot to express preference for postponing the question until the 88<sup>th</sup> Council, immediately prior to the Conference in Manchester in August 2007. If the majority wish to wait, the question will be postponed.

#### **Procedure**

- NFAs with questions or comments are encouraged to pose these via [nfa-leaders@ifuw.org](mailto:nfa-leaders@ifuw.org) so that all NFAs can benefit from the discussion.
- A written ballot will be mailed separately to CIRs, together with instructions explaining the procedure for written votes (quorum, who can vote, who must sign, etc.).
- National federations and associations in arrears with dues, up to and including those payable on 1 January 2006, associate NFAs and associate members are not eligible to vote.
- **The deadline for returning the ballot to IFUW Headquarters is 31 December 2006.**

## Procedure for IFUW Written Votes of Council

<b>Who can vote?</b>	<p>One Council Member from each national federation and association having paid its dues up to and including the current year is entitled to vote. The IFUW President, four Vice-Presidents and Treasurer can also vote.</p> <p>Associate national federations and associations, associate members and national federations and associations in arrears with dues are not entitled to vote. (Article VII and By-law 9)</p>
<b>Who receives the documentation?</b>	<p>The official circular and any background papers are automatically sent to all national presidents, CIRs and secretaries by e-mail. Copies are sent to national treasurers and other leaders when appropriate. One printed copy of this material is also sent to each CIR. They are encouraged to share the material and to discuss the issues with as many members as possible.</p>
<b>Who receives the ballot?</b>	<p>A voting paper is sent via the post direct to the Council Member designated at the beginning of the triennium or, in her absence, to the CIR of each national federation and association.</p>
<b>Who signs the ballot paper?</b>	<p>To be valid, the ballot must be signed by the Council Member.</p>
<b>What quorum is needed</b>	<p>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)</p>
<b>What vote is required for approval?</b>	<p>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)</p>
<b>How will the vote be conducted?</b>	<p><b>After first consulting her national leadership, each Council Member should complete, sign and date the ballot papers and then return them to IFUW Headquarters in Geneva.</b></p> <p><b>The ballot papers must reach IFUW Headquarters by post or fax no later than 31 December 2006 .</b></p>
<b>What if my NFA has questions?</b>	<p>NFA leaders with questions, either about the procedure or the issues to be decided, should write to <a href="mailto:nfa-leaders@ifuw.org">nfa-leaders@ifuw.org</a> or contact IFUW Headquarters via e-mail, fax or telephone.</p>