

## NFA Comments on the Proposals

### Proposal 1: Purpose

To include in the purpose a statement that IFUW, founded in 1919, is a worldwide, non-governmental organization of women graduates.

**Rationale:** *To make clear in the Constitution the nature and long history of IFUW.*

**NFA Comments:**

### Proposal 2: Loss of Membership

- To add dissolution as a reason for loss of membership for NFAs  
*(currently membership is lost when (1) an NFA ceases to meet the requirements for membership as laid down in the Constitution and (2) arrears in payment of dues accumulated over a period of three years, except in exceptional circumstances).*
- To add resignation, death and exclusion by Council for just cause as reasons for loss of membership for independent members  
*(currently membership is lost when an independent member accumulated arrears of dues of one year).*
- To state that loss of membership for non-payment of dues takes effect immediately at the end of the periods mentioned above.
- To include the right of the concerned to present arguments in writing to Council before such decision is taken
- To state that Council's decision takes effect immediately and requires no further justification.

**Rationale:** *To clarify the reasons for which membership may be lost and to provide for an appeal process*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 3: Administration**

- to require that a written record be kept of the meetings of all governing bodies of IFUW and that an official copy of this record, with numbered pages, approved by the body concerned at its following session and signed by the President and one Vice President, be kept at IFUW Headquarters.
- to clarify that elected and appointed IFUW leaders are not entitled to receive remuneration for the duties with which they are entrusted, but that reimbursement of expenses and travel grants may be paid upon receipt, subject to any guidelines established by Council and the Board of Officers.

**Rationale:** *to ensure transparency and to make clear the volunteer nature of IFUW's leadership roles*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 4: Conference**

To make provision for an extraordinary meeting of the Conference in the event of exceptional circumstances, called at the request of one fifth of the national federations and associations.

**Rationale:** *To widen IFUW's options for action in the event of a dramatic crisis.*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 5: Respective Roles of the Council and Board of Officer**

- to clarify that the Council decides any major policy questions between Conferences and reports all such decisions to the Conference.
- to clarify that the Board of Officers is responsible for carrying out the policies and decisions of the Conference and the Council and for coordinating the programme and activities of the Federation. The Board is empowered to take all decisions necessary to implement these effectively, provided that it takes no action involving financial commitments without prior consultation with the Finance Committee.

**Rationale:** *To remove some of the confusion over the relationship between the powers of Board and Council between Conferences*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 6: Written Votes of Council**

- to clarify that written votes of Council should be for issues requiring action between Conference and which are outside the jurisdiction of the Board of Officers and that Council should have right to delay the decision until its next meeting.
- to require that the CIR automatically serve as Council Member representing her national federation or association in all Written Votes of Council.

**Rationale:** *to provide some definition of issues that should be put to a written vote and to make the process easier for Headquarters to administer*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 7: The President**

- to authorize the Board to designate someone to take over the President's duties in the event she is absent or disabled
- to clarify that it is the President who represents IFUW in all legal matters and that she may only be replaced in these functions by a representative duly authorized by the Board of Officers
- to require the President to inform the Board immediately of any actions brought against IFUW or any of its bodies, to seek authorization from the Board before initiating any legal action, except in emergencies and to inform the Board regularly of evolution in any litigation.

**Rationale:** *to ensure smooth transition in the event the President is neither able to carry out her duties or to designate someone to act on her behalf, and to clarify responsibilities in the event of litigation*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 8: Nominations for IFUW Board and Committees**

To clarify that only individual members of IFUW may serve on the IFUW Board and Committees.

**Rationale:** *to ensure that candidates and appointees to IFUW Board and Committees are members of IFUW and to make it possible for independent members to serve. Note: The Constitution defines individual members of IFUW as paid-up members of NFAs, Associate NFAs, Associate Members who meet IFUW's eligibility requirements plus independent members.*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 9: Removal of a Member of the Board of Officers**

To make provision for removal of a member of the Board of Officers for just cause by a written vote of Council requiring a three-fourths affirmative vote of those eligible to vote and voting. The Board Member concerned would have the right arguments in writing to Council before such decision was taken

**Rationale:** *To provide recourse should a member of the Board of Officers fail to carry out her responsibilities.*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 10: Status of Women Committee**

To reduce the Status of Committee to six members (Convener plus five members) and to have the Convener of Resolutions serve as an ex officio member

**Rationale:** *To facilitate closer links between IFUW programme and advocacy without increasing committee expenses*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 11: Assistant Treasurer**

To replace the Assistant Treasurer in the country of the NFA paying the largest amount of dues with an Assistant Treasurer for Investments.

**Rationale:** *with current technology and banking, it no longer necessary that the Assistant Treasurer with primary responsibility for managing investments be from a particular country; it is more important that the person have appropriate knowledge and experience*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 12: Dissolution**

- To provide for lawful dissolution of IFUW in case of bankruptcy or when its governing bodies can no longer be constituted in accordance with these statutes
- To require the appointment of one or more liquidators charged with overseeing the liquidation process and, upon its completion, distributing any remaining assets in accordance with guidelines established by the Conference having voted the dissolution.
- To clarify that any remaining assets are to allocated by Conference which votes to dissolve, to national federations and associations, which are members of IFUW at the time of its dissolution, principally for the establishment of international fellowships; failing this, the residue to be used for purposes similar to those of IFUW.
- To require the appointment of one or more liquidators charged with overseeing the liquidation process and, upon its completion, distributing any remaining assets in accordance with guidelines established by the Conference having voted the dissolution.

**Rationale:** *to provide for dissolution in the event the organization is unable to meet the current quorum, to make provision for proper oversight of the process and to clarify some of the existing contradictions in the current Constitution and By-laws over what is to be done with any remaining assets*

**NFA Comments:**

**Proposal 13 (from the Membership Committee)**

- to replace current categories of NFAs, Associate NFAs and Associate Members with a single of membership ie full membership. New affiliates with more than the minimum number of members would join with a three-year probationary period after which they would immediately be eligible for full membership.

**Rationale:** *to simply fee the structure and to eliminate the two-level form of membership that exists now with only some members entitled to a vote in the Federation*

**NFA Comments:**