



## **TRIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CONVENER OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

**Members:** Marianne Haslegrave (*Great Britain*), Convener; Hazel Bowen (*South Africa*); Sun Young Kim (*Korea*); Kathryn Seymour (*Australia*); Heide Stieger (*Germany*), resigned March 2006; Birten Gökyay and Kathleen Laurila, IFUW Vice-Presidents

### **Meetings of the Committee**

In general, the Committee benefited from the good regional distribution of its members insofar as they brought differing regional perspectives to its work. This greatly facilitated the Committee's work with new members in the different regions and in supporting groups of graduate women in forming new affiliates. Regrettably, Heide Stieger resigned for personal reasons in 2006.

The Committee has so far held two meetings during the 2004-2007 Triennium, the first in person in Geneva in March 2005 and the second by conference call in March 2006. A third meeting of the Committee will be held immediately before the 29<sup>th</sup> IFUW Conference in Manchester. While the face-to-face meeting of the Committee was undoubtedly the most successful, the conference call meeting worked extremely well, due in particular to the fact that a detailed 'script' was prepared and circulated in advance to all members of the Committee. The work of the Committee has been carried out by email, which has meant that, when necessary, decisions have been able to be taken quickly.

### **Formation of new affiliates**

In the past, IFUW Headquarters has taken major responsibility for assisting with the applications of potential new affiliates. Given the decrease staff resources, this responsibility has been handled more by members of the Committee. The development of the 'model constitution', which has been sent to each applicant, has facilitated the work of the Committee in deciding whether it conforms to the aims and objectives of IFUW. We are, however, most grateful to Ati Blom, who has assisted the Committee in reviewing constitutions.

### **New members**

The Committee is very pleased that it was able to recommend the following Associations for associate membership: the Georgian Association of University Women (GAUW), the Kazakhstan Association of Graduate Women (KAGW) and the Kenya Association of University Women (KAUW).

It is very pleased that it was able to recommend the Fiji Association of Women Graduates (FAWG) and the Turkish Cypriot Association of University Women (KTUKD) for full membership. We shall also be recommending the Rwanda Association of University Women (RAUW) for admission to full membership in Manchester.

Members of the Committee have also assisted new groups forming in Brunei Darussalam, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi and the United Arab Emirates.

### **Changes in influences on the work of the Committee**

A feature of the work of the Committee during this triennium has been the increase in the use of 'special circumstances' in considering applications for membership and for moving from associate to

full membership. While the IFUW Constitution clearly states that there shall be only one national association or federation per country, it also allows for 'special situations' to be considered. The Committee, being cognizant of the need to be as inclusive as possible, has taken into consideration changes in the world when considering applications, while taking into account the importance of ensuring that member associations and federations should, wherever possible, be truly national organizations. It is likely that Membership Committees in the future will also have to consider more of these 'challenges' in their work.

### **Promoting and strengthening membership in IFUW**

The Membership Committee has been very concerned about the consistent loss of membership that is being experienced in many national federations and associations. The Committee, therefore, examined the criteria for membership, as well as the current structure of full and associate membership, to see how they corresponded to the current situation. As a result, the Committee proposed a constitutional amendment that would simplify IFUW's structure by having a single category of membership, with all affiliated groups having voting rights.

Following the work undertaken by the previous Committee in developing a complaints procedure, the Membership Committee has reviewed and revised the document, which is now available for use should it be required.

### **Other areas of work**

The Committee has also been working to fulfil its other remits, including planning and working on the Young Member training programme and credentials for the 29<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference.

Other opportunities remain for further work in the future such as Corporate Membership and devising more ways of supporting both new affiliates and those that have been members of the Federation for many years.

Marianne Haslegrave, Convener  
May 2007