



Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet)

President: Dr Jennifer Strauss AM

Secretary: *Tricia Blombery*

Treasurer: *Deborah Haydon*

CIR: *Dalma Jacobs*

Address for 2008-2010: PO Box 224

Enmore NSW 2042, Australia

Email: jstr0036@bigpond.net.au or afgwoz@bigpond.com

Minutes of the Electronic Council Meeting held 6th – 14th December 2010

1. Opening and welcome

The President, Jenny Strauss opened the meeting and welcomed members and observers. She advised that Item 4.1 – Admission of PNG as an Associate member of PGWNet had been withdrawn.

2. Attendance

AFGW: Jennifer Strauss(Chair), Dalma Jacobs, Jane Baker, Susan Knights (observer)
Deborah Haydon (observer, minute taker)

ATUW: no representation

FAWG: Lily Vesikula, Senimili Vukikomoala, Elizabeth Fong* Charlotte Taylor
(observer)

NZFGW: Dot Page, Claire Matthewson, Linda Robertson (observer), Joanne Rogers
(observer), Beverley Turner (IFUW PGWNet Adviser, observer)

SAWG: Maryann Lameko, Niusila Faamanatu-Eteuati

SIGWA: Ruth Maetala (observer)

PNGFUW: Angela Mandie-Filer (observer)

*Elizabeth assumed Senimili's voting responsibilities after Day 7

Apologies

ATUW: Polutu Fakafanua-Paunga

FAWG: Akanisi Kedrayate

3 Minutes of 2009 Council meeting (circulated)

Moved from the Chair: that the Minutes of the electronic Council meeting held on 8th to 21st December 2009 be taken as a true record, subject to the correction of the spelling of Claire Matthewson's name CARRIED.

4 Business arising from Minutes (if not covered elsewhere) None.

5 Reports

5.1 Executive Reports, 5.3 IFUW Adviser's Report 5.4 30th Triennial Conference of IFUW Report

Jenny added to her report under 5.4 as a result of the IFUW and Committee meetings that had just taken place. The 31st IFUW conference will be held in Turkey in 2013. She also noted that a good working understanding of proxy voting system is required if the voices of Pacific Island women are to be heard clearly at IFUW conferences. She suggested it as an item for the 2011 Council meeting because while proxy voting is not new, it is not well known. She also noted the concern throughout IFUW to maintain and increase membership asking PGWNet members to advise the IFUW Membership Committee of problems to see if they have any way to help and to share good ideas for attracting members.

5.2 Member Associations

Written reports were received from AFGW, FAWG, NZFGW and SAWG. After a very busy year, SIGWA plans to hold a re-grouping meeting in January.

Moved: that all reports be received Jacobs AFGW/Matthewson NZFGW CARRIED

6 Progress on the PGWNet Regional Action Plan

At the 2009 Council meeting, it was suggested that, rather than review the entire Regional Action Plan, member NFAs might make specific commitments to parts of it. The specific commitments were circulated for the appropriate NFAs' responses.

AFGW has completed Commitment 1, has made progress on 2 but has work still to do on Commitment 3.

NZFGW has completed commitments 1 and 2. No. 3 (the chairing of PGWNet from 2010 to 2012) is about to begin.

SAWG has completed Commitment 1, its website is awaiting linkage with the IFUW website. Commitments 2 and 3 are ongoing.

FAWG stated that it will be in a position to provide a progress report on its commitment to build up contact with and support for Vanuatu through the USP Emalus Campus in Port Vila at the 2011 PGWNet Council meeting.

A formal review and extension of commitments will take place at the 2011 PGWNet Council Meeting.

Jenny Strauss noted from the Chair that the Regional Action Plan (RAP) Project Objective "Increase number of NFAs/cluster groups in PGWNet" column 5 - Evidence/data source wording must change from "New associate members registered with IFUW" to "*New NFAs registered with IFUW. New associate members received into PGWNet*" because IFUW no longer accepts "associate members".

Dalma Jacobs (AFGW) recommended that a an updated copy of the RAP be posted on the PGWNet website under "What we do"

7 PGWNet Website

As members are aware, the PGWNet website is up and running under the auspice of IFUW. Anamaria Vere and Jenny Strauss are to be commended for all their hard work. Jenny Strauss reminded members that photos and reports appropriate for the website should be sent directly to Anamaria (anamaria.ver@ifuw.org) not simply sent to IFUW hoping/assuming that Anamaria would pick them up.

Jenny Strauss committed to working with Anamaria to increase the number of linkages between the PGWNet website and other relevant website, as suggested by Beverley Turner.

8 **55th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW): member input**

The theme of CSW for 2011 is access to education, especially in science and technology, and its outcome in decent work and fulltime employment. This is especially relevant to our organisation.

The IFUW President, Marianne Haslegrave, wants to take an IFUW delegation of 20 to CSW that is really expert in aspects of the theme – unfortunately members must be self-funded. Jenny Strauss committed to sending the IFUW call for members to be part of the delegation to PGWNet members in case they had not received the original invitation. She said that it would be great to have someone from the region in the delegation.

Jenny also noted that she had been short listed as a Community Sector delegate in the Australian Government delegation and would advise members when a decision has been made.

Beverley Turner notified members that she will be attending CSW as a representative of another body (Pacific Women's Watch NZ) on which she is NZFGW representative.

On the recommendation of the President, Item 10 – Any Other business became Agenda Item 9 – Communication and, Item 9 Handover to NZFGW, became Item 10.

9 **Communications**

9.1 Circulation of NFA major events calendar

In inviting PGWNet members to the NZFGW mid-term Council meeting in March 2011, Dot Page asked that each NFA circulate their schedule of major meetings during 2011.

It was noted that these meetings would be of interest to the new IFUW President, Marianne Haslegrave, for coordinating visits to Pacific countries.

9.2 Greater circulation of each country's newsletters and updates

Beverley Turner advised that she would very much appreciate receiving news at any time during the year of meetings, projects or fundraising activity – either informally or by being included on circulation lists.

9.3 NZFGW's commitment to provide guidelines for improving processes to keep in touch with students and academic moving between PGWNet countries

NZFGW pledges that in 2011, after consultation with appropriate institutions and individuals, they will circulate draft guidelines for PGWNet consideration. This pledge relates closely to NZFGW's over-arching aim to create and maintain links in New Zealand with Pasifika and Pacific Island students and graduates and relevant Pacific Island organisations.

10 **Handover to New Zealand**

Jenny Strauss, as retiring Chair stated that she believed that PGWNet was now in a stronger position to continue and to gain some of the hoped-for benefits of the network. She thanked members for their support over the previous two years and wished everyone a happy holiday and a productive and safe 2011.

This message produced, in return, many emails of appreciation of Jenny's efforts on behalf of PGWNet, her organisation and her skills as an open and cooperative communicator.

Dot Page said the Executive of NZFGW would be honoured to convene and provide liaison for PGWNet over the next two years and that they look forward to the challenges and pleasures of working with PGWNet. She noted that, at Jenny's suggestion, "a formal review of commitments" will be left to the New Year. She ended by thanking Jenny for the

warmth, good humour and efficiency she brought to chairing the PGWNet Council and wished everyone the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Meeting closed at 1.00 pm New Zealand time, 11am Australian time on Wednesday 14 December.