

MOTION TO SET CFUW PER CAPITA DUES

Moved: that CFUW per capita dues be set at \$50.90 for members wishing to be CFUW members and \$81.00 for members wishing to be members of both CFUW and Graduate Women International.

Moved by Linda Asper, UWC Winnipeg.

Background

It is time to heal the divide that has caused internal strife within member clubs, caused friendships to falter, is forcing member clubs to consider leaving CFUW (one has already given notice) and will continued to weaken CFUW by taking up time better spent on furthering CFUW goals. It is time to support a compromise based on respect for all opinions that will allow each individual club member to decide whether to remit dues to GWI.

Legal Background:

There are no legal impediments to this motion. CFUW requested an opinion from its lawyer, Ms Karen Cooper. In her opinion, dated December 5, 2017, she states:

“...membership in GWI is contingent upon CFUW having at least 20 individuals who are graduate women, while the membership in CFUW is comprised of member clubs. In my view, the best approach would be to create a separate category of individual members to either “opt in” or “opt out” of membership in GWI.

This could be done without a change to the by-laws. Currently the bylaws provide that dues are paid by the member clubs on a per capita basis. The per capita rate is set by special motion at an AGM and is applied in the fiscal year following the AGM. In my view, there is nothing in the bylaws to prevent the CFUW from giving notice of and getting approval from the members for two dues rates: one rate for members that wish to remain a member of GWI and one rate for those who do not wish to remain a member. Clubs would remain “members” of CFUW, but their members would pay in accordance with whether the individual members of the club pay dues to GWI or not.”

Implications for CFUW

If the motion is adopted CFUW retains Article 4 which states: “CFUW shall be a member of the GWI.” There is no other mention of the particulars of membership in GWI in the bylaws except as relates to duties of the Board as defined in Schedule 2.

If the motion is adopted:

1. CFUW would remain a member of GWI and honor Article 4.
2. The liaison (CIR) to GWI would stay in place as required by the GWI constitution
3. The matter of membership in GWI can be put to rest.
4. Any internal strife within clubs over GWI membership may end.
5. The club that has left may be asked to rejoin if the impediment to joining has been removed.

Financial Issues

UWC Winnipeg is a proud founding member of CFUW. We have put forward this motion so that we may remain proud members of CFUW. We respect that some of UWC Winnipeg members may wish to continue to support GWI while many others have lost confidence in that organization.

UWC Toronto was forced to sell its clubhouse due to financial strain. UWC Winnipeg does not want to be put into the same position but within 5 years the club will have exhausted its reserve fund. Our only choice then would be to give up the Ralph Connor House, which would be a sad day for UWC Winnipeg. Built in 1913-14, it was purchased by our club in 1945. It now is both a provincial and national site.

Although the situation that UWC Winnipeg is facing may be unique because of its clubhouse, the financial situation we are facing is one that other clubs share. Clubs have no room to increase the club portion of dues because of the \$30.10 per capita that each member must pay towards GWI.

There is a presumption that dues increases may be easily absorbed by members. There are comments about it just being a glass of wine or in the case of the total dues now payable to GWI, just a lunch. These comments are unduly presumptuous of Club members' personal situations.

Possible Action Should This Motion Fail

If this motion fails, the motion to leave GWI may come before the membership again. It would not be dilatory as a majority voted in favour of the motion to delete Article 4 and leave GWI. The issue could continue to be debated year after year in various forms. If a motion to leave passes, the issue of membership would still not be put to rest as members who are in favour of staying are as entrenched as those wishing to leave.

If the motion to set 2 per capita rates is adopted:

1. CFUW remains a member of GWI.
2. The liaison (CIR) would remain in place as required by the GWI constitution.
3. The matter of membership in GWI can be put to rest.
4. Any internal strife within clubs over GWI membership may end.
5. The club that has left may be asked to rejoin if the impediment to joining has been removed.

It is time for CFUW to vote in favour of this compromise based on the respect for differing opinions on GWI and the needs of all clubs and their individual members to heal the divide.