

Minutes of the WAF General Body Meeting

Date: 9.9.2014

Venue: ASR Library

Attendance: Lala, Humaira Shaikh, Nyla Naz, Neelam Hussain, Rubina Saigol, Fareeha Zafar, Nabeela Shaheen, Neelam Hussain, Tamkinet Karim.

Unable to attend: Nasrene Shah: sick, Popti: last minute transport problem, Samina Rahman, Gulnar, Farida Shaheed – travelling, Naazish, Nuscie, Ayra – prior engagements

Agenda

1. Karachi Statement
2. Rules regarding WAF communications
3. Date and preparation for WAF Convention
4. GB Mailing List
5. Admin matters
6. Nighat's letter re admin matters
7. Working Committee Membership
8. WAF Convenors
9. Any other

1. Karachi Statement and Lahore WAF's response:

Context: When requiring national level endorsement on a given issue, it is normal practice for WAF chapters to circulate a given statement to all chapters for comment and endorsement prior to sending it to press. In this instance, Karachi WAF failed to send its excellent statement on the current situation regarding Imran Khan's dharna to the Lahore chapter. As a result, the Lahore chapter became aware of the statement through the SPN network.

Nyla Naz, co-convenor Working Committee with Neelam Hussain, was contacted by Samina Rahman in this regard and the matter was discussed with her, Lala, Ruby and Humaira. The decision was taken to endorse the statement and get Karachi WAF's permission to give it to the Lahore press for publication. In the meantime Samina Rahman sent a one liner on the SPN network saying the Lahore WAF had endorsed the statement.

Nyla Naz tried to contact Anis Haroon telephonically and by email for this purpose but was unable to make immediate contact as Anis was in Islamabad and because of the current political situation in Islamabad, having problems with her phone. Finally contact was established and the Karachi chapter apprised of Lahore's endorsement plus permission to get the statement published in Dawn if possible.

- The GB took the decision to write to the Karachi chapter reminding them to send national level statements to all chapters for comment and endorsement prior to sending them to the press.

2. Rules regarding communication on WAF's internal matters

- Ref Nighat's correspondence on SPN: GB members stated that members should be reminded that internal matters should be discussed on WAF networks and not conveyed to WAF or made public through external networks.

3. Proposed date and preparation for the WAF National Convention

- GB members agreed that the dates for the WAF Convention be fixed for February 2015 and to apprise other WAF chapters of their preference.
- As per the decision taken at the last GB meeting, Humaira was asked to start work along with Gulnar on the positions to be taken for the Convention and updating of the WAF Charter on the basis of the documentation of WAF material by Tauseef and Lala.

4. GB Mailing List

At the last Working Committee Meeting, Lala had suggested that the inactive members also be included in the 'active' General Body mailing list as this would keep them in the loop.

- Lala's proposal was discussed at the GB meeting and the decision taken to expand the current GB list in the interests of inclusivity.

It was further decided that the quorum should be fixed on basis of active membership. This would enable WAF to take decisions while maintaining the principal of inclusivity.

Precedence for this arrangement was cited by Tamkinet with reference to Government College Old Ravian's Association where the membership runs into thousands but where the quorum is fixed at a hundred.

5. Eligibility to attend WAF General Body Meetings

- The decision was taken that all WAF members should be eligible to attend GB meetings

6. New Members – eligibility criteria

- As per decision taken at an earlier GB meeting, knowledge of and acceptance the WAF Charter was mandatory for potential members prior to membership.

Humaira was asked that she and Gulnar should prepare, as soon as possible, a version of the Charter based on basic principles and positions already taken for this purpose alongside the position paper for the WAF Convention.

- Women were eligible for WAF membership provided they understood and accepted the principals and positions taken in the WAF Charter.

- The decision was taken to update the old membership forms to facilitate new membership. The responsibility for this was undertaken by Humaira Shaikh
- Friendship and relationship with WAF members would not debar anyone from joining WAF

7. Nighat's letter regarding the GB mailing list, quorum and eligibility for membership was read out and discussed. It proved to be a very useful document as it provided relevant information necessary for decided issues pertaining to the GB mailing list, quorum and eligibility criteria

8. Working Committee Membership

- As per the decision taken at the last but one Working Committee, members who had opted to be on the WC but had subsequently failed to attend any meeting, were asked to clarify their position. Mumtaz Mughal, Sadaf Chughtai, Ayra requested that they be removed from the WC as work pressures made it difficult for them to attend WC meetings. As GB members they expressed their willingness to be part of work specific short term committees as and when necessary.
- The convenors informed the GB of Nighat Said Khan's decision to resign from the Working Committee and be on the GB instead. Her decision was accepted by the GB.

9. Working Committee Convenors

- Nyla Naz informed the GB of her decision to resign from her position as co-convenor WAF Working Committee. The GB thanked Nyla for her work as co-convenor and looked forward to working with her as WC member.
- Naila's decision was accepted by the GB and Ruby was inducted into the Working Committee prior to being nominated as co-convenor with Neelam

Convenors: Naila Naz and Neelam Hussain