

1957

Executive Committee Minutes
Report of Secretary General

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Executive Committee

Minutes

Brunnen, Switzerland, August 15 and 16, 1957

Present

M. L. Ginet, President
J.J. A. Lohnis, Vice-President
Hedda Fredenhagen, Treasurer
Ruth M. Williams, Secretary (alternate for Donald V. Wilson)
Erik Andersen
Alma E. Hartshorn (alternate for Mrs. Chris Thompson)
Jane M. Hoey (alternate for Violet Sieder)
A. de Laage
Marios Raphael
Nancy Rice-Jones
Renata Schluter

B. Chatterjee, observer for Asia
Isabel Cremer, observer for International Association of Schools of Social Work
Canan Ergruder, Istanbul, Turkey

Mlle. Ginet, presiding

Mlle. Ginet opened the meeting by extending a cordial welcome to all those present. She explained that M. Milhaud of the UN European Office had expressed his regrets at being unable to attend the meeting. Miss Fredenhagen then outlined the arrangements for the two days and announced that a number of members of the Swiss Association of Social Workers would join the Committee for dinner in the evening.

I. Report of the Secretary

Miss Williams reported that Mr. Wilson was unable to be present because he was on a trip around the world, during which he hoped to meet with representatives of a number of national associations of social workers. In his absence she read his report covering the period since the last meeting of the Committee in August, 1956 (see Attachment #1). It was agreed that the various suggestions in the report would be taken up under the relevant items on the agenda.

Miss Rice-Jones reported that during Mr. Wilson's recent visit in London he had held a very useful meeting with the British Association.

II. Report of the President

Mlle. Ginet said that during the past year she had met with officers and members of the Executive Committee in Paris, Amsterdam, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Vienna to discuss various aspects of the Federation program. Plans had been made for two seminars during 1957 under the sponsorship of the Federation. In London she had discussed the question of possible cooperation with the International Council of Nurses on questions of common interest.

She had attended the seminar in the United Kingdom and the Executive Committee meeting of the International Conference of Social Work as the Federation representative.

III. Report of the Treasurer

Miss Fredenhagen presented a report showing the funds of the Federation which were located in different countries and in various currencies as of January 1, 1957. These totalled approximately 850 Swiss francs. The report was adopted with an expression of appreciation to Miss Fredenhagen for the painstaking work which had been required in sorting out the financial transactions of past years. It was agreed that the report should be taken as a basis for future operations and that an effort should be made to consolidate all the funds in one account in Geneva as promptly as possible.

The Committee then turned to a discussion of Federation income. Miss Fredenhagen reported that all but two members associations had paid their fees for 1956. She said she would write to these two about the matter, as well as to the associations which still owed their 1957 fees. She stated that in the future she hoped to send out the bills early in the year so that, hopefully, all payments would be received by the summer. In response to a question, she said the fees were as follows:

Associations having under 1000 members	100 Swiss francs
Associations having 1000-2000 members	200 Swiss francs
Associations having over 5000 members	500 Swiss francs

Miss Fredenhagen then raised a question about paying expenses of Executive Committee members. There was a consensus that they should be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses in connection with Federation business, such as postage, mimeographing, etc., but that until the organization's income was increased it would not be possible to consider paying traveling expenses to attend meetings. The Committee decided that before the meeting ended it should adopt budgets for 1957 and 1958, which would serve as a guide to the Treasurer in paying expenses of various kinds.

IV. Report of the Vice-President

Miss Lohnis outlined the plans for two seminars to be sponsored by the Federation. The first would take place in Italy in September and would deal with training of social workers on the job. The response had been smaller than anticipated because of the problem of language, the difficulty some individuals had in paying the costs, and the fact that apparently the subject was not of great interest to practitioners. This created certain problems since the budget was based on an attendance of 40. It was agreed that as this was a Federation activity, any deficit would have to be paid out of the regular funds. It was recognized that in the future such activities would need to be planned in relation to the IFSW budget.

The second project would be a study group for industrial social workers to be held in Zurich from 22 to 28 September. Miss Lohnis raised a question about participation by individuals who are not members of national associations of social workers, and it was decided that this should be allowed in exceptional cases, where such persons would have a genuine contribution to make. The present workshop was considered such a case.

The question of planning seminars and other activities in close cooperation with the United Nations was raised. The need for coordination of all types of meetings and seminars, under both international and national auspices, was stressed, and Mlle. Ginot was asked to write to the United Nations to express the views of the Federation on this point.

V. Approval - Constitution

Mr. Raphael, chairman of the subcommittee on the constitution, presented the draft which had been prepared after considerable consultation with Executive Committee members and member association through correspondence and conversation.

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

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J.J.A. Lohnis

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Jane M. Hoey (alternate for Violet Sieder) *U.S.A.*
A. de Laage *France*
Marios Raphael *Switzerland*
Nancy Rice-Jones *England*
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Mr. Raphael, chairman of the subcommittee on the constitution, presented the draft which had been prepared after considerable consultation with Executive Committee members and member association through correspondence and conversation.

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He raised a number of questions which he felt the Committee needed to answer. After extended discussion, the President named Miss Hartshorn and Miss Hoey as a drafting subcommittee to prepare the final English text of the Constitution for consideration by the Committee.

When the drafting subcommittee submitted its report, the Executive Committee constituted itself as the Council of the Federation in order to take action on the constitution. Mr. Raphael moved and Miss Hoey seconded that the constitution be approved. The resolution was unanimously adopted by the Council. See Attachment #2 for the complete text.

It was decided that the constitution should be supplemented by a covering note explaining the thinking underlying certain provisions. The French members of the Committee started work at once on the French version after the Committee had reached agreement that the phrase "assistant social" would be used in the French title of the organization and throughout the constitution. Miss Williams was asked to consult with the Pan American Union to see if they would prepare a Spanish translation.

It was agreed that the term of office of the present officers and Executive Committee members should be regarded as being two years from the time of their election at Munich in August, 1956. The list of the persons filling these positions is given in Attachment #3.

The Committee adopted a resolution of appreciation to Mr. Raphael for the careful and thorough work he had done on this project during the past year.

VI. Approval - New Members

Mlle. Ginot reported that there were applications for membership from associations in Sweden, Luxembourg and Pakistan. The application of the Swedish Association, which has 2000 members, was unanimously approved.

Since the Luxembourg Association consists of both nurses and social workers, it was decided to postpone action on its application and recommend that a section of social workers be established within the association. As a matter of principle, the Committee voted that the membership fee for associations with under 100 members should be 25 Swiss francs.

Mlle. Ginot said there was evidence that the association in Pakistan which had applied for membership was not recognized in all parts of the country. It was therefore decided that she should write and point out the importance of an association being truly national and suggest the desirability of getting together with other associations within the country. The Committee concluded that this case emphasized the importance in the future of investigating all applications before they were brought up for action.

The Committee then reviewed membership possibilities in various countries. In a number of cases it decided to maintain contact with a correspondent in the hope of an association being established which might eventually join the Federation. Decisions were reached with regard to certain countries and regions, as follows:

Japan - Mr. Wilson to encourage the establishment of an association through correspondence and other means.

British Commonwealth - Miss Rice-Jones to explore developments in these countries.

Latin America - The Federation to sponsor (with the International Conference and the International Association of Schools) a meeting in

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Puerto Rico at the time of the Pan American Congress of Social Service, at which an effort would be made to stimulate interest in the IFSW.

Norway - Mr. Andersen to meet with the President. The problem here is that there are two associations at present.

Miss Lohnis was named as membership chairman. All members of the Committee were asked to report to her on applications for membership, new associations to which might be interested in joining the Federation and other developments having to do with membership.

An up-to-date list of member associations appears in Attachment #4.

VI. Consideration - Relations with the United Nations

There was consensus that it was important to maintain close relations with the United Nations in order to ensure the active participation of the national associations in the various UN programs, e.g. seminars, exchanges of personnel, etc. Miss Ginet was asked to emphasize this point in her letter to the United Nations. It was agreed that the question of consultative status with the UN should be considered at some future date.

Miss Hoey stressed the part which national associations could play in their own countries in urging the selection of qualified delegates to the UN bodies which dealt with social questions, i.e. Social Commission, ECOSOC, Executive Board of UNICEF.

VII. Consideration - Relations with other international organizations

International Conference of Social Work. It was agreed that the Federation would sponsor a meeting at the Tokyo Conference on the day set aside for the meetings of international voluntary organizations. The subject "What Can the Professional Social Worker Contribute to the Recognition of Needs and the Development of Resources?" was selected, and Dr. Bulsara of India was suggested as one possibility as a speaker. Mr. Wilson would be asked to organize the session.

International Association of Schools of Social Work. The Committee felt it would be desirable to have closer contact with the Association in order to facilitate joint planning by the two organizations. Among other things, the Association would be invited to have an observer at all Federation meetings (as in the present case), and an effort would be made to send an IFSW observer to meetings of the Association. It was reported that Miss Rice-Jones would serve in this capacity at the forthcoming meeting of the Executive Board of the Association in Zurich.

International Council of Nurses.

It was decided that no action would be taken now on the question of closer relations with the Council.

The Committee concluded that as a general principle the Federation would maintain informal relations with organizations have common interests, the only exception being the International Conference of Social Work, in which it has an Associate membership.

VIII. Approval - Budget and program for 1957 and 1958

Miss Fredenhagen submitted tentative budgets for 1957 and 1958, which were approved as a basis for operation (see Attachment #5). These envisaged the following activities:

1. Quarterly newsletter. This would be edited by Mr. Raphael and published and distributed by the International Conference of Social Work. The ICSW would contribute the services and supplies required with the exception of the postage, which would be paid by the Federation.

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2. Circulation of journals and publications. There was agreement that this project should have a high priority. Direct exchanges between countries would be encouraged through the newsletter.
 3. Information leaflet. Mr. Wilson would be asked to work during the coming year on the preparation of a descriptive leaflet about the Federation.
 4. Ethics of the profession. Miss Hoey would ask the National Association of Social Workers in the U.S. if it could undertake to collect information about what exists at present in the way of statements on ethics in various countries. This hopefully would be followed by an international seminar on the subject sponsored by the Federation.

IX. Next Meeting

The Committee decided to hold its next meeting in Europe in the summer of 1958, at a time and place to be decided by the President and the Secretary. It also decided that the Council would meet in Tokyo at the time of the International Conference of Social Work.

In closing the meeting Mlle. Ginot expressed the thanks of the entire group to Miss Fredenhagen for the excellent arrangements for the meeting and to the members of the Swiss Association who travelled to Brunnen for dinner with the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth M. Williams
Secretary pro tem

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Report of the Secretary General to
the Executive Committee

Since the meeting of the Executive Committee of the IFSW held in Munich 1956, the Secretary General has visited Denmark, France, Sweden and the United Kingdom, as well as the United States, where he had an opportunity to talk with persons active in the program of the Federation.

From these discussions and by correspondence, an effort has been made to explain the work of the IFSW and to answer a number of inquiries that have been received.

Membership. One of the most difficult problems encountered has been to establish an accurate list of member organizations, for it was not entirely clear what organizations had definitely taken action to become members of the Federation. There have also been difficulties in securing accurate addresses, for sometimes the officers of the national associations have different mailing addresses from the association itself. Several circulars have been sent out to secure this current information.

Further efforts have been made to provide information to national organizations of social workers interested in becoming affiliated with the IFSW. It is urged that the Executive Committee give further study to this problem of membership. Consideration might be given to the advisability of establishing a small membership committee consisting of about three people responsible for developing any additional membership requirements and for providing information on this subject.

Organization. Correspondence has also been carried on to complete the designation of the members of the Executive Committee, particularly to secure additional appointments from Australia, Denmark and the United States. These persons have been subsequently designated in accordance with the authority granted at the meeting in Munich.

The Secretary General has also served as a member of the Committee responsible for revising the constitution of the Federation. Several important questions of organization must be settled before the constitution is finally adopted. Definite decisions concerning these matters should be taken as early as possible so that all interested persons may be informed about the structure of the IFSW.

Finance. There has been correspondence with Miss Fredenhagen, Treasurer of the IFSW, and several of the national associations concerning financial policies and procedures, particularly the payment of the annual membership fee. The correspondence indicates that there is much confusion about this matter - several organizations have sent their cheques to various people trying to pay their annual dues, but a number of cheques have never been deposited. This has been rather an embarrassing situation. Correspondence indicates, however, that Miss Fredenhagen has taken action so that these problems will not arise in the future.

Information. Correspondence has been carried on with a number of national organizations throughout the world interested in securing information about the IFSW, and several associations of social workers are contemplating taking action to affiliate. A short statement concerning the IFSW was prepared and printed in "Social Work," the Journal of the National Association of Social Workers.

of the United States. Information about the Federation was also provided for the "Social Work Yearbook" published by this association.

There is a great need to explain the aims and work of the Federation, and it is to be hoped that a small folder or brochure can be prepared and distributed in two or more languages. The possibility of the IFSW issuing a newsletter has also been proposed. If the time and the money can be provided for the writing and distribution of such a newsletter, it would certainly be a great help in advancing the work of the IFSW.

In this short report I have tried to emphasize four basic problems facing the Federation: membership, organization, finance, and information. It is to be hoped that further progress can be made in solving these questions to provide a firm foundation for the future program of the IFSW.