



ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

By: Elisabeth Brunbauer

While our program year is underway, WID member Elisabeth Brunbauer, Associate Director for Development Operations at Barnard College, reflected on the topics raised at this event and how WID is taking action this year on issues important to members.

The Women in Development Annual Membership Meeting for the 2020–2021 was held on August 27th. This was the first time hosting the event virtually, and the small-group discussions over Zoom offered a fresh chance for in-depth conversations. The main discussion topics that arose in my group were mentorship, IED initiatives, and the representation of professional fields within WID. Following the meeting, I had the chance to explore our talking points and plans for the year with WID board members.

We began our discussion on WID's recently released [Diversity & Inclusion Task Force Final Report](#), and shared what IED means to us and its function within the organization. We talked about how issues of gender, race, and socioeconomic status can inhibit inclusion and equity, and how WID's efforts in this realm are making an impact. After the meeting, I spoke with Co-Chairs of the newly-established Equity, Inclusion and Diversity Committee of the Board, Melissa Wansin Wong and Wendy Sealey. The Committee is focused on realizing the plans introduced by the Task Force Final Report including: programming that spotlights leaders tackling diversity, equity, and inclusion; building and expanding relationships with external organizations that promote IED; and revising the membership survey to capture and analyze more detailed demographic data. Wendy and Melissa have some exciting initiatives planned that will be introduced later this season.

Our small group agreed that one of the benefits of being involved with WID is the opportunity to grow our professional networks. **I to I: Structured Networking Experience** is a favorite event, as it both provides career advice and introduces new and established WID members to each other. Another great way to develop your professional network through WID is to volunteer for a committee. Following the meeting, I spoke with Ann Loudon, Chair of the Board Volunteers Committee, who has just launched the updated [Volunteer page](#) on



the WID website. Ann and I also spoke about mentorships within WID. Inspired by the question – “How do we help members feel that they are getting value and are valued during this time?” – Ann conceived the idea for **Career Advisors**, an exciting WID initiative set to debut next month. Stay tuned!

Finally, recognizing the varied roles in our group, we touched on the need for WID to continue providing programs that delve into the varied areas of development – major gifts, institutional giving, planned giving, etc. – as well as programs that cut across our areas of expertise. WID’s perspective on this was summed up for me by President, Yolanda Johnson: “Through our programming, WID always endeavors to strengthen a sense of community while equipping our members with the tools and skills they need to be successful in their lives and careers. Our goal each year is to craft a program schedule that is diverse and enjoyable, while providing concrete ideas and suggestions upon which our members can build a solid foundation (and this year, for successfully doing their work in the virtual realm!).”