



**Bio & Policy Statement from  
A Nominee for President  
Board of Governors 2017-2018**



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**Affiliation: BBC News**

The FCC is the greatest press club in the world. It is also our common home away from home. If elected, I vow to be a committed, hands-on president working with all parts of the membership to defend our core values and achieve our shared goals.

I have been privileged to serve on the board of governors since 2015, most recently as your first vice president. Besides chairing committees (Press Freedom, Professional, F&B), I have also been actively supporting the president and other board members on wide-ranging club affairs, and would be honoured to bring that experience to the position of president.

We have a lot of work ahead of us: boosting F&B revenue (it is down in line with the wider industry), cutting costs and waste, improving the quality of our service, organising key professional events, speaking out for press freedom and benefitting the Hong Kong community with our charity initiatives.

If elected, I promise to deliver another edition of the FCC's successful journalism conference (I am one of the organisers), as well as experiment with different formats at speaker events in order to maximise attendance.

In addition to the above, I would also seek common consensus to introduce the following new initiatives:

1. Mentoring programme for C&J members

It's a tough world out. The nature of journalism is changing so quickly. And we are often not paid on par with our counterparts in business and industry. For many of us, after some years as journalists, we wonder, is this it? Younger C&J members would be matched with more seasoned working journalists for career advice and development. I would aim to start with a small batch of mentees and volunteer mentors who meet regularly.

2. Award for summer internship

The question I get the most often when speaking with aspiring reporters is: how did you get your foot in the door? I come from a low-income family and have supported myself financially since age 17. I couldn't afford to work for free during the summer. But my university newspaper offered scholarships for its staff, allowing me to take internships that eventually led to my first job in journalism. This year, I administered the FCC's Youth Essay Contest for young journalists. The winner flies to Italy to cover a film festival. It is a fantastic programme, but I

would like to initiate a longer-term scheme, with a modest initial scholarship, to encourage young local journalists.

The FCC is, at its core, a media club, and I believe the above initiatives stand to benefit current members and, hopefully, future correspondents and journalists. To achieve longevity as a club though, we must watch our spending.

Over the past year, the Press Freedom committee, which I co-chair, has restructured our flagship event, the Human Rights Press Awards, now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year. The awards' founders have stayed on to guide us through the transition.

The new administrator of the awards is the University of Hong Kong, which has helped us to make the judging criteria more transparent and systematic. We are pleased to say that we are on track to achieve significant cost savings, relative to previous years. I aim to bring that eye -- for championing and preserving our core properties whilst saving as much money as is reasonable -- to the position of president.

When I arrived in Hong Kong in 2012, I never expected to stay. I thought I'd work here for a few years and move on -- continuing the same itinerant correspondent life I'd lived for the previous decade. But since then, I've married, had three kids and finally found a home: in Hong Kong and in the FCC.

In this day and age, with a U.S. president constantly attacking the press, with China going backwards on press freedom and with Hong Kong media feeling the heat from politicised commercial pressure, the FCC's core mission to stand up for free speech -- and be a daily platform for it -- is more important than ever.

In order to build on the momentum that we have collectively achieved, I humbly ask for your vote.

And finally, I encourage everyone to vote. Democracy is important to Hong Kong, and to the FCC. Anyone who wishes to reach me with thoughts, ideas and constructive feedback can email me at [msjulianaliu@gmail.com](mailto:msjulianaliu@gmail.com).

Bio: I began my journalism career as a student reporter and editor for the Stanford Daily. In 2001, I joined Reuters as a graduate trainee, based in London, Singapore and Colombo, where I covered the civil war. Then, I spent three years in Beijing writing about politics, general news and technology for Reuters. In 2006, I joined BBC News in Singapore as a television reporter, producer and presenter focusing on business coverage. From there, I traveled throughout Asia, and completed several long-term stints in London and New York. I became the Hong Kong correspondent in 2012. Interviewing Xi Jinping in 2002 and covering Occupy Central whilst 8.5 months pregnant have been my most memorable stories so far.