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**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Second Vice President
Board of Governors 2018-2019**

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They say that elections are about choices, and in this year's 2nd VP slot that is actually the case. My basic pitch is that I love the FCC, but in a fair few areas we must upgrade and modernize. My opponent, Kevin Egan, who I have known for years and greatly respect, has long argued for minimal change. While I certainly wouldn't say the FCC is broke, I am of a bent to fix stuff.

I spent the first half of my career as a journalist at the likes of SCMP and Bloomberg, which I hope has served me well as a governor. During four years on the board, I have tended to deal with unsexy issues like membership, HR, facilities management and disciplinary matters. For the last three years, I've also been Club Secretary, which means a few of you will have had grumbling letters from me over this or that (someone has to do it.)

Our most pressing operational issue is that rising costs and falling F&B revenue has landed us with a chunky deficit for two years running. Unchecked, we will burn through our reserves. An easy fix would be to jack up fees, salami-slice member services and cut all capital spending. You also hear arguments to "soak the Associates." I disagree on all counts, and think we must be financially prudent, yet invest in our club so that venues outside of the legendary Main Bar are made better.

As I see it, the objective should be to ensure the FCC is a good place to come, not just for speaker lunches and casual drinks, but also for that important birthday dinner, anniversary party or seal-the-deal lunch. Hong Kong's dining scene has changed massively, and we must improve.

If I am elected, here are initiatives I will vigorously pursue:

1. Follow through on the "Master Plan" effort, which I have helped lead over the last six months which should be completed by June. Next year, we need to plan potential upgrades to areas like the Main Dining Room, Health Club and function rooms, so we can handle tenders and be ready to undertake works in summer 2019.

2. Work with our new general manager, who will take over from the great Gilbert Cheng this summer, to systematically address intractable issues like high staff turnover, which in recent years has negatively impacted service quality.
3. Push for an overhaul of the club's membership categories to fit with the modern media landscape. I also favor modernizing measures that would make the board more accountable to the whole membership.
4. I will advocate for a simplified disciplinary process to deal with cases in a way that is proportional to the infringement and less traumatic for those making complaints.

Simon Pritchard is global research director at Gavekal Research, which sends daily commentary and analysis on economics and politics to about 800 institutional clients with 15,000 readers. He is 51 and has lived in Hong Kong since 1993.