Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Correspondent Member Governor
Board of Governors 2019-2020

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Many of you already know me, because the FCC has been my home away from home for a long time. I was a Washington Post reporter and correspondent for 34 years, including stints as Bureau Chief in Manila, Hong Kong, Jakarta and Beijing/Shanghai. I joined as a member when I arrived to open the Washington Post’s Hong Kong Bureau in January 1995, and have been a regular visitor even when posted far away.

I served on the Board in 1996, and was elected Club President in 1997. During my tenure, the Club became the central media hub for Handover activities, with daily press conferences, panels and luncheon talks bringing together all sides. Since returning to Hong Kong in 2016, I’ve stayed involved, not only around the main bar, but also with the Professional Committee and the Journalism Conference. I also regularly advocate for journalism students to be included in Club events.

I want to return to the Board in the hope that my past experience — as Club President, as a longtime correspondent and as someone who has lived and worked in Beijing — might provide some useful history and context for the newer, younger Board members who I am supporting and with whom I hope to serve.

I will also continue to advocate for some things I think will help the Club bring in new young members and ensure a long and dynamic future. This includes increasing the Club’s interactions with journalism students, such as reserving a limited number of seats for students at events and consider hosting events specifically for journalism students, so they can meet working journalists and editors in hiring roles can spot prospective talent.

I think the Club should also consider offering any student graduating with a Masters of Journalism from a Hong Kong university a limited time guest card to the FCC and a limited number of vouchers. This might increase interest among young people in the Club.

I want to stay involved with the Professional Committee, since our events are the lifeblood of the Club. There is a lot of synergy between the Club speakers and those we host at HKU, so I hope to do more coordination where we can.

Finally, I think we need to make sure the Club is a friendly, fun, respectful place where all members and their guests feel welcome. This means we should have zero tolerance for any form of racism, sexism, homophobia or disrespectful behaviour — to members, guests or staff. Every member should treat anyone who comes into the Club how they would want to be treated themselves.