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



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Credible threats to kick the FCC out of its home on Ice House Street have tested our resolve as an institution over the last year. The club must stay true to its mission of supporting free speech and a free press, yet recent events have not reflected well on the board, which could have handled the situation better. Having served four previous terms (2014-18) and championed professionalism and good governance, my focus, if elected, will be to keep the board focused on its duties to all members.

On the broader issues raised by the Andy Chan affair, I think the club needs to focus on its role of being a neutral press club, and not setting itself up as some kind of “resistance” outpost that is allied to particular political groups in Hong Kong.

The other controversy that needs addressing is fallout from the adoption of a new anti-harassment code. A small group of members are campaigning against the code on the basis that it threatens free speech. I think this is tosh and would object to watering it down. The code represents a middle-of-the-road set of principles that should govern decent behavior in any modern workplace or association. It was adopted in response to constant cases of bad behavior by certain members and is one tool that can be used to modernize the culture of the club, so it is fit for the 21st century.

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

1. Follow through on the “Master Plan” effort, which I have helped lead over the last 18 months. The “unpleasantness” of the last year means we will be coy about committing big capital sums, however lots of preparation work must be undertaken, including engagement with members.
2. 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.
3. 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.

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 during my time as an FCC governor. I have tended to deal with unsexy issues like membership, HR, facilities management and disciplinary matters. I was Club Secretary from 2015-18. For a day job, I am a director at Gavekal Research, which sends daily commentary and analysis on economics and politics to about 900 clients with 15,000 readers.