

27

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



Christopher SLAUGHTER
Affiliation: Consultant

In recent months, the introduction of the [code of conduct on sexual harassment](#) has regrettably become a source of considerable conflict around the Club. For the record, I fully support this policy; it is not just appropriate, it is in fact overdue.

During the drafting and Board discussion of this document over the past year, I became much more aware of how many women have a negative view of the atmosphere in the Club. In the course of that reflection, I also had occasion to review my own behavior and, arguably, have found room for improvement.

We must ensure that, as a Club, our members are respectful and courteous, inclusive, and treat everyone in a dignified manner. It doesn't take a code of conduct nailed to the wall to do that, but this document feels to me like a pretty good place to start.

But I also share the puzzlement of many that the introduction of this policy has become such a contentious issue, especially in a year when so many other events have taken place that cut to the core of our Club's very purpose.

In a year when, unprecedentedly, our First Vice-President has been denied renewal of his work visa; when a former Hong Kong Chief Executive (and current Chinese government official) has repeatedly issued public condemnations about our activities and called into question the terms of our lease; when mainland state media have excoriated us in op-ed pieces; when we have had hundreds of protestors blocking our doorway and, among other things, calling in false fire alarms; when our website has been maliciously hacked – seriously, *a sexual harassment policy* is what the FCC needs to be saved from?

I am tremendously proud of our Club and what we stand for, in Hong Kong, and across the region. Like everyone else, I love our premises, and have spent years working to maintain its architectural heritage. However, I also know that our Club is more than just a piece of real estate. And while I will work like hell to ensure that our lease is renewed, I won't do so at the cost of our principles.

Yes, we have “probably the best bar in the world”, but we have much, much more than that. Every member of our Board of Governors needs to recognize that fact, and support our Club in maintaining its historic legacy as a bastion of free press and free speech, while ensuring our future as a welcoming, non-threatening, and inclusive association.

Christopher Slaughter was twice elected President of the FCC. He joined the Club in 1991 as a Journalist Member; later became a Correspondent, and is now an Associate Member. He currently serves as the 2nd Vice-President, and has been elected to the Board in various capacities more than fifteen times. He has participated in every Club Committee, but most recently has been Co-Chairman of House: Building and Maintenance and the Wall Committees.