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**Bio & Policy Statement from  
A Nominee for Associate Member Governor  
Board of Governors 2020-2021**



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**Affiliation: Consultant**

Given the magnitude of the pandemic we find ourselves in, it's hard to prioritise anything other than making sure family and friends are all healthy and well. (And that the kids are actually doing their schoolwork and not goofing off.)

However, a lot of the other issues we have grappled with in recent years have by no means gone away, they've merely been overshadowed by the COVID-19 outbreak.

We must still vigorously defend freedom of the press in Hong Kong. We must take a stance on press freedom issues in China and around the region, as appropriate – it's who we are, it's what we do. Times are quite possibly the most trying they have ever been for journalism, certainly during the course of my career.

Fiscal prudence is always important, but right now, it's absolutely critical. I have served on Boards when we have scraped perilously close to the bottom of the barrel, so I deeply appreciate the efforts made by recent and past Treasurers and Finance Committees to get our coffers refilled, and filling again. And yes, we do have reserves, but it will take a lot of effort to manage the challenges ahead.

We must foster good relations with our landlord, and work on maintaining our building's architectural heritage. Both of these are obligations to ensure that we will be able to renew our lease, the end date of which just keeps getting closer.

We've had changes at all levels of staff in recent years, and while we miss old friends, there are many who remain and continue to provide excellent service. We're seeing many of those changes bear very positive fruit, and I am confident that under Didier's guidance, our Club will continue to go from strength to strength, despite whatever this virus and these times can throw at us.

*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 has been elected to the Board in various capacities more times than he can recall (and he should really check with the Office to find out one of these days). He has participated in every Club Committee, but most recently has been Co-Chairman of House: Building and Maintenance and the Wall Committees.*