

**Bio & Policy Statement from
A Nominee for Associate Member Governor
Board of Governors 2018-2019**

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The FCC is without doubt the best members' club in Hong Kong, for journalists, correspondents and importantly, for associates. In times of financial challenge, the role of the associates in designing and supporting a club they enjoy attending cannot be overstated. As a former BBC television journalist and news producer, I believe passionately in press freedom and in the role of the FCC as one of the world's pre-eminent meeting places and discussion forums for journalists, correspondents and associates. Now as a lawyer, I bring a particular mix of business acumen and appreciation for all the fine journalism the Club continues to support.

I bring media, legal and business experience, having previously served as an Associate Governor and played a significant role on some of the Club's major committees including, House, Finance, F&B and Communications. Associates need to have someone on their side who knows how the Club works and who will fight their corner from day one.

Previously, I helped revitalise the Club's music programme, introducing artists such as *The Red Stripes* and *Miriam Ma and Hippogroove* (now firm Club favourites), and devising attractive communications to help people know when they can see their favourite bands.

My platform – Chief among the challenges will be that of finding a new General Manager. As a major new private members' club opens in Hong Kong early next year, the General Manager will set the tone for the Club, continuing the tradition of making it a welcoming place for new and established members alike. Once the new General Manager is appointed, they will need the right support team in place and to know they have the backing of the Club's Board.

We need to maintain and nurture the Club's unrivalled reputation for hosting world class live music. The misguided decision to reduce the music nights from three to two – and to have Thursday free from music – needs to be immediately reversed. We have to ensure we book attractive acts for the once a month Saturday evening special, not relying on the same names but looking further afield to bring freshness and dynamism back to the Club's offering. Even though the music nights were shown to have broken even before the

decision to cut back on music, we should promote music better and combine this with a more flexible reservation policy that allows members to plan their evenings ahead.

Associates should not be expected to stump up more than they do already in comparison with the subscriptions paid by correspondents and journalists. Any move to penalise associates unfairly in terms of subscription should be robustly resisted. On the contrary, we should consider increasing the number of associate members within reason to help address the operating deficit.

Whilst some revenue-raising and cost saving measures have proved successful, others appear to have been implemented without thought for the consequences. The decision to raise prices for the main quiz night was unpopular and, predictably, led to fewer teams signing up. There should be a continuous effort to improve the quality of the food at the quiz night while keeping prices competitive.

Members are becoming more discerning about their food choices and the Club's offering tends to disappoint. We should consider a simplified menu throughout the Club whilst retaining a selection for those who prefer fine dining. The recent introduction of extended Sunday opening hours in the main dining room is welcome, however the opportunity to introduce a more relaxed "brasserie-style" food offering should be reconsidered.

I commit to serving the needs of all members – in particular associate members - through active engagement and participation in all areas where I can make a difference. The Club needs change, change which requires your vote!