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Board Communique 80

Dear <<First Name>>

The future trends and workforce needs for the broader Australian STEM sector were a strong topic of conversation at the most recent Board meeting. Sally-Ann Williams, CEO of deep tech incubator Cicada Innovations, and Pip Marlow, CEO of Salesforce Australia and New Zealand attended as part of the Board's guest speakers program, and contributed greatly to the discussion on these priority issues.

The presentations were highly informative and useful as the Board discussed plans to broaden ATSE's capacity to support STEM career pathways and academic-industry collaboration, through industry internships and other collaborations. We also discussed plans for a major ATSE conference in the second half of 2022, focussed on STEM career pathways. The Secretariat is working on plans to bring this event to life – including incorporating the AGM, induction of and presentations from new Fellows, and the ATSE awards into the program, making it a truly landmark event for the STEM sector and for the Academy.

The Board reviewed and approved a suite of new strategic and operational policies including updated policies for risk management, COVID, privacy and financial delegations. In addition, the Board formally endorsed the audited financial statements for 2020-21 – ahead of the AGM in November – with no queries or conditions from the auditor, and had an update from the Governance Taskforce.

And finally, the Board considered results from a recent survey regarding the conditions in which staff have been working. The Board is grateful to all staff who have maintained their professionalism, commitment to excellence and strong work ethic throughout the requirements of lockdown and working from home. We know that many staff members are juggling caring duties with their work through these difficult times (which have been particularly protracted for our Melbourne-based staff), and we are sure the Fellowship joins the Board in expressing our deep appreciation for their commitment.

Yours sincerely,

The Directors of the Board
1 October 2021



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We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.