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Board Communique 81

Dear <<First Name>>

At its recent meeting, the Board covered a broad range of items, from strategy, to fellowship engagement, culture and respect, governance, investments and reviewing its own performance.

Thank you to all Fellows who took the time to complete the annual Fellows' Survey. The results, and the Board's responses, will be communicated in the next newsletter, and published on the Fellows' website. With a response rate of just under one-quarter of the Fellowship (similar to last year), the survey demonstrated strong support for the current work and direction of the Academy, and reinforced that climate change, research translation, and educating the skilled workforce of the future remain the **top three priority issues** for the Academy.

A number of agenda items (including membership, diversity and inclusion, and governance), required a discussion on ATSE's values and reinforced the importance of all Fellows committing to and upholding a culture of respect. It was noted that several Fellows who are members of the **Champions of Change Coalition** have committed to supporting committee chairs to continue to grow this culture.

The Board also expressed its gratitude to ATSE's many committees over the year (27 in total!), and in particular thanked those chairs and deputy chairs who have concluded their terms, including outgoing ACT Division Chair Joanne Daly, Tasmanian Division Chair Jim Reid, Digital Futures Forum Chair Mike Miller and Education Forum Chair Peter Lee. The Board endorsed and acknowledged the appointments of Tasmanian Division Chair John Gunn, ACT Division Chair John Dixon, Digital Futures Forum Chair Mary-Anne Williams and Education Forum Chair Mark Hoffman.

As part of its commitment to continuous improvement, and following the recommendations of the 2020 Governance Review, the Board has recently undergone an in-depth external performance review. The results of the review were presented at this meeting, and will be presented to the Fellowship at the 2021 AGM. The review found that ATSE's governance is of high quality, and made a number of recommendations to further improve Board performance going forward.

The Governance Taskforce, led by Joanne Daly as Chair, presented the results of their recent consultation regarding the proposed way forward for the election of the ATSE president. The Board thanked all Fellows who contributed to this process, and supported the principles upon which the final proposal is being built. This proposal will now go to Assembly and the AGM for consultation, before coming back to the Board for formal ratification.

Still on Governance, the Audit and Risk Committee has continued its busy agenda, with updates to a range of ATSE policies, including the **Whistleblower Policy**. This updated policy is available on the ATSE website and we commend it to the Fellowship. We were also pleased to **update the Investment Policy**, to align it with the **Net Zero Emissions Position Statement**. This followed advice from our investment manager, Crestone, that this approach would have a neutral or positive influence on ATSE's investment performance in the future.

Yours sincerely,

The Directors of the Board
15 November 2021



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Australian Academy of Technology & Engineering

Level 2, 28 National Circuit, Forrest ACT 2603

Level 6, 436 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004

Phone +61 2 6185 3240

ABN 58 008 520 394

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The Academy acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land on which we meet and work.
We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.