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Board Communique 79

Dear <<First Name>>

The idea for an ATSE-led industry internship program for post-graduate STEM students was first raised during fellowship consultations around the strategic plan last year. The Academy has considered a number of models over the past year, and at its meeting last week (after negotiations regarding APR. Intern failed to progress), the Board approved a pilot of a program that extends the offering for alumni of our industry mentoring program, IMNIS. With strong support already indicated by existing mentors, mentees and industry partners, this pilot will commence over the next 12 months. Please read the Fellows' newsletter for updates and announcements as this program pilot progresses.

Also approved at last week's meeting was a new position statement calling on the Australian government to commit to net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050 - and ambitious interim targets for 2030 - to prioritise the deployment of existing as well as emerging low-carbon technologies, and develop a national net zero policy and implementation framework. The position statement will be publicly released next week, and an advocacy and communication strategy will support it over coming months. Work has already commenced across a number of Forums to build on this position statement with specific actionable technologies across a range of sectors. The Board is grateful to the Energy Forum and Working Group for their work in creating this statement.

The Board heard an update from the Governance Taskforce chair, Joanne Daly: the Taskforce has been working to implement the recommendations of last year's governance review, with the election process for the next President its first priority. This process will be settled following consultation with Fellowship by the end of 2021, with the election itself to take place in 2022. The Taskforce is also working on recommendations in the areas of clarity and culture, bodies and officers, and structure and performance. The Taskforce welcomed the addition of director Meera Verma as the Board's formal representative, in addition to the President who is an advisor to the Taskforce.

Following the discussion about the Taskforce's work on the Academy's culture, the Board discussed the necessity to encourage respectful and inclusive interaction and debate among Fellows, and respectful interactions between Fellows and staff. The Academy does not exist without the fellowship, and cannot function without the Secretariat: this partnership is crucial to our capacity to have impact. The updated Code of Conduct provides a formal framework to guide interactions. As a modern organisation that prioritises inclusivity, the Board expects that all Academy interactions are courteous and considerate. It's everybody's responsibility to both behave appropriately, and to call out uncomfortable or inappropriate behaviour when it occurs. Board members have individually committed to doing this and urge each Fellow to do the same.

The Board was disappointed not to have been able to meet in Brisbane as planned, and looks forward to resuming meetings around Australia and interacting with Fellows in your home capital city as soon as COVID allows. This week we're holding an '**Ask me Anything**' session for Fellows, where all are welcome to join and ask the President, CEO or Deputy Chair of Assembly any question you wish about ATSE and its work. This engagement initiative has been taken to help us all stay connected while we're still restricted to meeting online.

Finally, the Board was pleased to formally endorse the candidates for 2021 Fellowship put forward by the Membership Committee: 25 for fellowship, one for foreign fellowship, and one for honorary fellowship (put forward by the Board). We commend these exceptional scientists, engineers and technologists to the

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The Directors of the Board
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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.