

## Board Communique 76

Dear ATSE Fellows,

The Board met last week for the first time in 2021.

It was a pleasure to welcome the two new Directors, Professor Paul Wood and Dr Meera Verma, to the Board.

The Board considered the results of the Fellows' survey taken late last year. The Board is grateful to all Fellows who took the time to complete the survey – a little over 27% of Fellowship – for providing your thoughts and feedback about the issues, priorities, and communication methods that matter to you. Among many other insights, the survey showed that climate change is of paramount interest to Fellows, ATSE's policy work is the activity most valued by respondents, and that more Fellows use LinkedIn than other social media platforms.

The results and a commentary about how they will shape Secretariat work are now available on the Fellows' website. The Board and Secretariat will continue to use these results as a guide to Fellow sentiment and wishes, alongside regular consultations and formal and informal discussion. The intention is to repeat the survey annually in the second half of each year (albeit with a shorter list of questions next time).

It was a pleasure to formally endorse the ATSE Values Statement, which was created with input from every Division and led by the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. This statement is a touchstone for Fellows and staff alike, and is an important step towards the new Code of Conduct, which is being worked on by the Diversity and Inclusion and Audit and Risk Committees. It is intended to discuss the draft Code of Conduct at April Assembly, prior to formal endorsement at the subsequent Board meeting. The Board commends the Values Statement to you. It can be found on the public and Fellows' websites.

Following the 2020 Governance Review, the Board heard from the commencing members of the review implementation working group (as recommended by the Review, these are: the President, the Deputy Chair of Assembly, and the CEO). The Board has endorsed Dr Joanne Daly as the Chair of this Working Group, as well as its recommendation to call for expressions of interest from Fellowship to join the Working Group (up to a total of seven members of the Group including the CEO).

The intention is that the Working Group will remain in place until after the election of the next ATSE President, the consideration of this process being a primary focus for the Group. Dr Daly will provide an update on the Working Group plans to Assembly in April, after which there will be an open call to all Fellows for nominations to join the Group. The Governance Review and recommendations are available via the Fellows' website.

On the topic of Governance, the Board is progressing plans toward an external review of Board performance, to follow our self-assessment late last year. We've also agreed to commence reviews of each of the committees chaired by Directors (membership, diversity and inclusion, audit and risk, international strategy group).

After a year of review and re-set in 2020, and following extensive consultation with fellowship and several in-depth discussions at Assembly, the Board was delighted to formally adopt the 2021-25 ATSE Strategic Plan. This plan (now up on the Fellows website homepage), provides a focus for programs, projects and other activities of the Academy, and works hand-in-hand with the three key priority issues identified by the Fellowship – climate change; fostering a collaborative culture, and; exciting and educating young people in STEM. The Secretariat will now commence working on an operational plan and budget to support the goals of the Strategic Plan in the coming financial year.

To that end, following months of discussion and planning, the Board has formally approved the transition of the national post-graduate industry internship program, APR.Intern, to ATSE from the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute (AMSI). The move is scheduled to take place early next financial year, and ATSE looks forward to working with the APR.Intern team, and AMSI, to settle it into its new home and optimise the program's opportunities to support the translation of research skills into business innovation across Australia.

The transition period will commence in April with a program review and stakeholder consultation, to ensure the program design is fit-for-purpose as it moves into its next phase.

Yours Sincerely,

**The Directors of the Board**

**23 February 2020**