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## Board Communique 87 — November 2022

Dear <<First Name>>,

The Board met in Melbourne last week for its final formal meeting of the year. It was a real pleasure to host a vibrant gathering the night before with Victorian Fellows, and to welcome some of our most recent awardees to also join us – including the opportunity to personally congratulate David and Valerie Solomon awardee, Associate Professor Laura Downie, who was unable to attend the recent awards dinner.

We are excited to report the artwork commissioned from Nggunawal artist Lynnice Church for ATSE's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is finished and the design incorporated into our RAP. We encourage you to read through the RAP [here](#). The RAP will be formally launched after the art is installed at ATSE's Secretariat in Canberra.

Following extensive and lengthy consultations across the Fellowship, including a deep discussion at the most recent meeting of Assembly, the Board has approved new measures to support a modern, thriving Fellowship. We are proud to have unanimously endorsed measures, effective from the 2023 intake, to annually:

- Formalise the target that 50% of the usual intake of new Fellows are women (while maintaining a 40% target for new Fellows from industry and government)
- Elect up to an additional five Fellows who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Elect up to an additional five Fellows who are women or non-binary people.

We also voted to create a new category of Life Fellow; complimentary Fellowship for those aged 80 and above, in recognition of their deep lifetime service to applied science, technology and engineering.

The Board is grateful to Janis Cocking, Doreen Thomas, and their working group who researched, consulted, and spearheaded these initiatives, with the support of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. We encourage all Fellows to proactively seek excellent candidates, to ensure the 2023 membership committee has a rich field from which to choose.

We extend our gratitude also to the many outgoing members of the selection committees who have given so generously of their time and expertise, for the important task of selecting new Fellows, and we welcome the incoming members of those committees, whose appointments we formalised at this meeting.

Given our strategic focus on supporting a thriving and diverse STEM-skilled workforce, and the Academy's increasing work and profile in leading diversity and inclusion initiatives – both for our own organisation and across our sector – the Board resolved last week that the CEO should resource this important work with an on-staff specialist in this area.

We were pleased to see so many engaged Fellows, teachers, students, partners and collaborators at the recent **ACTIVATE** event, both in person in Sydney and joining us online. Commencing with our first in-person Assembly in a few years, the new Fellows' seminar, breakfast report launch, and Awards dinner were also particular highlights. The Board recorded its formal thanks to all at the Secretariat for their commitment to excellence in staging this event, and will give thought to potential approaches to similar future events at its first meeting in the new year. We encourage attendees to provide feedback via the delegates' **survey** to help inform future planning.

It's been a busy year for policy projects, culminating at this meeting with the formal acceptance of the new Sustainable Minerals Position Statement, which will be launched and shared with the fellowship soon. Sincere thanks to the Minerals Forum for their committed work and consultative approach to developing this statement.

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leadership has steered the Academy towards greater impact, diversity, robust engagement, and effectiveness, and his legacy will be felt and appreciated for years to come.

Yours Sincerely,

**The Directors of the Board**  
**21 November 2022**

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