Australian Computer Society
Constitutional Reform Working Group (CRWG)

Report Back to Members on the Round 2 Consultation

Final Version of 25 April 2022

Summary

This document is designed to provide ACS members with an appreciation of the input provided by participants during the first two Rounds of consultation between October 2021 and March 2022. It can be read at varying levels of depth.

Very Briefly:

Participants in the consultation process want the constitution to place considerable emphasis on:

• Assurance that the Society's activities are consistent with its nature and values;

• A strong focus on professionalism and the professional membership;

• Appropriate powers and resources for Branches and for Committees of members;

• Governing committee arrangements that ensure closer connections with members than has been the case in recent years; and

• Effective accountability mechanisms by the governing committee to the membership.

In Slightly Greater Detail:

Participants said that they want the constitution to give effect to the following:

• Embedment of the Society's nature and values, comprising its mission, purposes, Code of Ethics, and principles for determining the allocation of surplus;

• A requirement that actions of the governing committee be consistent with those values;

• Controls to prevent inappropriate activities, particularly direct involvement in innovation and too-close relationships with industry associations;

• A requirement that non-core activities deliver surplus or other material benefits to the professional membership and to society as a whole;

• Strong focus on the professional membership grades, and services to professional members;

• Membership involvement in the formation of the Society's strategy and public policies;

• Strong internal committees of professional members, with delegations and resources;

• Effective relationships with other relevant organisations throughout the ICT eco-system;

• Strong Branches, with delegations within their geographical regions and resources to serve their members, including Branch Committee powers in relation to Chapters and SIGs;

• A governing committee that is transparent to the members, and engages with them;

• Membership ratification or approval of major initiatives and key documents;

• A CEO and staff who serve the membership, rather than managing them; and

• Means whereby the membership can encourage the governing committee to run the organisation in ways consistent with the Society's nature and values, but with means available to take decisive action if the governing committee does otherwise.

How to Find More Detail on Particular Aspects:

The remainder of this Report summarises the input provided on each specific element, under the same headings as in the Consultation Documents: https://crwg.org/index.html#R2R

Even greater depth of understanding is made possible by the provision of supporting Annexes containing the raw text of participants' input.