

TechNet Australia Working Group meeting

11:00am AEST (UTC+10h), Friday 6 March 2020

Zoom teleconference

Present: Mark Hayne <m.hayne@qut.edu.au>; John Naumann <john.naumann@flinders.edu.au>; Rekha Joshi <rekha.joshi@mq.edu.au>; Tim Clark <tim.clark@deakin.edu.au>; Karen Teague <Karen.Teague@unisa.edu.au>

Apologies: Prasanth Subramani <prasanth.subramani@mq.edu.au>; Jennie Nelson <J.Nelson@westernsydney.edu.au>; Vanessa Valenzuela Davie <V.VDavie@westernsydney.edu.au>

1. Welcome & introductions

Meeting opened 11:08am.

2. Meeting procedures & housekeeping

- Meeting time will be prioritised towards subjects that are too time-consuming to correspond about.
- A simple, collaborative structure to the working group.
- Dot point minutes will be distributed to other working group members.
- **ACTION:** **VG** to distribute minutes from today's meeting.

3. Projects for 2020

- Unanimous agreement: The highest priority project is to gain top-down support for TNA, towards raising the profile & recognition of techs in Australia. This is to complement our bottom-up approach, which on its own isn't achieving the recognition & support we seek.
- MH has previously written to VCs with no response. RJ suggested we approach Deans/Heads of Schools.
- **ACTION:** **Everyone** to compile a list of people in executive-level positions (e.g. Dean/HoS) who are known to be champions or supporters of technicians.
- Ideas discussed included value of TNA for tech professional development; importance of the annual conference for TNA having something to offer; finding allies in other organisations; parallels to the UK Technician Commitment; Advance HE (Higher Education Academy).
- MH suggested we aim to develop a professional-looking 1-pager and video that highlights the value technicians bring to the sector.
- **Action 3:** **JN & KT** to draw upon existing TechNet SA documents to pull together some ideas on what outcomes we want from approaching uni executives & from raising the profile of TNA, and what metrics could be suitable for measuring these desired outcomes.

4. TechNet Australia structure

- Having a formal TNA structure is a tool that supports our aim to gain this top-down support and helps establish our credibility.
- A proposal is being drafted for review among the working group, initially.
- JN recommended to circulate info to TNA members on the range of options that have been considered, not just the one we think is the best fit.
- **ACTION:** **MH & VG** to collaborate locally to continue working on the incorporation/structure formalisation proposal and to report on progress at the next meeting.

5. Announcements & any other business

No other matters were raised.

6. Next meeting & meeting close

Next meeting scheduled for 11:00am AEST (UTC+10h), Friday 3 April 2020.

Meeting closed 12:01pm AEST.