TechNet Australia Working Group meeting

11:00am AEST (UTC+10h), **Friday 1 May 2020**
Zoom teleconference

Present: Mark Hayne <m.hayne@qut.edu.au>; John Naumann <john.naumann@flinders.edu.au>; Karen Teague Karen.Teague@unisa.edu.au; Prasanth Subramani prasanth.subramani@mq.edu.au; Vanessa Valenzuela Davie <vanessa.davie@sydney.edu.au>; Tim Clark <tim.clark@deakin.edu.au>; Rekha Joshi <rekha.joshi@mq.edu.au>;

Apologies: Jennie Nelson <J.Nelson@westernsydney.edu.au>;

1. **Welcome & introductions**
   Meeting opened 11:00am.

2. **Report on tasks**
   a. MH successfully restablished TNA Committee Google Group.
   b. **Strategy for approaching uni leadership (All)**
      - JN circulated draft PowerPoint presentation for "pitching" TNA to management etc.
      - All agreed it was a very useful tool that can be further evolved/refined.
      - **ACTION (Further suggestions/contributions by All)**
   c. **Legal structure (VG)**
      - Postponed until membership definitions/types/classes resolved.
   d. **Membership classes (MH)**
      - MH asked for discussion about membership models and voting mechanisms for determining TNA representative committee.
         o Consensus for retaining an inclusive "self-identified tech" class of membership. Free?
         o Consensus for a distinct "voting rights" membership. Eligibility? Cost?
         o JN – 1 vote/uni?
            ▪ 40 Australian uni's (37 public and 3 private) + 2 international private uni's.
         o VG – Do TNA challenges vary geographically e.g. state to state, region to region?
            ▪ VG's view is that they do not.
         o RJ – Favours a broad voting base i.e. not restricted to institutional votes.
         o PS – Suggested committee makeup be Chair + 2 reps/state for a fixed 2yr term.
            ▪ NT and Tas each have 1 uni. The ACT has 2
         o VVD- Pointed out that TNA presence and membership at UoS and UTS is not strong.
            ▪ Support of TNA and its activities varies widely.
         o Concern that if institutions have votes that they would assign managers as their reps.
         o KT – Do not outsource control (away from membership base); Gender spread of committee? Favours 2yr committee cycle
      - **ACTION (MH)** to distribute some membership type options prior to next meeting
3. **Any other business**
   - ACTION (PS) to survey committee re document platform preferences e.g. Dropbox, OneDrive etc.
4. **Next meeting & meeting close**
   - Next meeting scheduled for 11:00am AEST (UTC+10h), **Friday 5ᵗʰ June 2020**

Projects for 2020

- Highest priority is to gain top-down support for TNA within university sector.
  o Formalising TNA structure will add credibility and recognition.
- Highlighting/improving value of TNA for tech PD, recognition/representation/networking/community
- Identifying allied organisations/exemplars locally and internationally. UK Technicians Commitment, HEA etc.

Standing Housekeeping Arrangements:

- Meeting time prioritised towards subjects that are too time-consuming to correspond about.
- Dot point minutes will be distributed to other working group members by MH or VG.