

AFAANZ

POLICY ON LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

1. Background

The AFAANZ Constitution contains a provision for a life membership category. Various past Boards have made this award sparingly. There is no formal procedure for the award. Typically, past Boards have on occasion put forward names for consideration and made a decision. Life member awards have then been presented at the Annual Conference. Moreover, there are no generally accepted criteria for the award, other than perhaps sustained excellence. Nevertheless, it is clear from prior decisions that the award is reserved for a special few.

The purpose of this paper is to develop criteria and processes for the award of life membership to aid in consistency and transparency going forward.

2. Criteria

A look at the list of life members (listed in section 5 below) sends a signal of excellence. But it is arguably difficult to define the common theme of excellence. Certainly, all are respected scholars although their contributions vary. Moreover, there is variability in their contribution to education. Finally, there is also variability in their contribution to the Association.

At the outset, we should recognise that the award is life membership of AFAANZ and hence a contribution to AFAANZ must be a prime and necessary consideration and in this respect it is crucial to distinguish between contribution to the profession, and contribution to AFAANZ – with the latter almost invariably having a ‘voluntary’ aspect to it. Most members also have made other notable contributions to scholarship, education and/or the profession in general.

It is proposed that qualification for life membership must include an outstanding contribution to AFAANZ and an outstanding contribution to at least one of scholarship, education or the profession. These conditions should be regarded as necessary but not sufficient for the award. In essence, these conditions are an initial barrier, which must be satisfied before the decision on the award is made.

Proposal

“Nominees for the consideration of the award of life membership must initially satisfy criterion 1 and at least one of criteria 2, 3 or 4.

1. An outstanding and exceptional contribution to AFAANZ over a sustained period, as potentially demonstrated by:

- Service on the Board
- Formal roles such as Treasurer or President
- Service as the Editor of *Accounting & Finance*
- Service to a Special Interest Group or Groups
- Sustained efforts in promoting AFAANZ activities through conference papers and participation, and perhaps to a lesser extent, papers published in *Accounting & Finance* (since it is difficult to attribute publication activities as contributions to AFAANZ rather than to the profession more broadly)
- Sustained efforts in supporting AFAANZ through sub-committee work, conference organisation, participation in Doctoral events, editorial board and refereeing activities for *Accounting & Finance*.

2. An outstanding and exceptional contribution to scholarly research in a discipline of mainstream relevance to AFAANZ membership, as potentially demonstrated by:

- Fellowship and/or membership of learned societies and bodies
- Research excellence awards
- Prestigious publications in peer-reviewed journals
- Consistent and long-lived scholarly publication record
- Contribution to major research projects, through grants, networks and/or leadership
- Citation impact of scholarly work
- Invitations to speak at international events
- Editorship and/or related activities for major journals
- Recognition of, and recognition by, past PhD students.

3. An outstanding and exceptional contribution to higher education in a subject area of mainstream relevance to AFAANZ membership, as potentially demonstrated by:

- Teaching excellence award(s)
- Innovation and leadership in pedagogy
- Prestigious publications relevant to education
- Authorship of recognised textbooks
- Recognition of, and recognition by, graduates.

4. An outstanding and exceptional contribution to the profession and/or higher education policy and direction, as potentially demonstrated by:

- Committee and development work for the professional accounting bodies or equivalent
- Committee and development work for boards and agencies interested in the advancement of accounting and finance (eg. Standard setting boards)
- Committee and development work for relevant government departments and agencies
- Major project work in the area of higher education relevant to AFAANZ
- Administrative and leadership contributions to multiple higher education institutions in Australia and New Zealand.

Nominations must be prepared and forwarded to AFAANZ. The case should include a discussion of how the nominee meets the initial criteria and indicate which criteria are relevant. The documentation should include a current CV. The nomination may or may not be prepared with the nominee's knowledge. A nominee may prepare their own submission.