

Discussion Paper 2: Proposed Changes to Fees and Institutional Membership



Annual General Meeting of the Association of Tertiary Learning Advisors Aotearoa New Zealand (ATLAANZ)

Friday, 3 December 2021

Purpose

To adjust membership fees for inflation, in particular, to reflect increases in the costs of catering of Regional Hui, Hui/Fono and other ATLAANZ events.

To provide discounted membership to larger organisations that have requested an “Institutional” membership rate.

Background

ATLAANZ has an ongoing commitment to keep membership fees as low as possible, to enable learning advisors with limited professional development budgets, and larger organisations with multiple members, to join and participate in the ATLAANZ professional community. At present the membership fee is set at \$40 per person per year, and this is not transferable.

The main member benefits that we offer are free attendance at Regional Hui (Northern, Central, Southern), free attendance at MATLAANZ/PATLAANZ Hui/Fono, a membership discount to attend the biennial conference, free online ChatLAANZ participation, access to the ATLAANZ Journal, and the opportunity to apply for research and travel grants.

Host institutions typically contribute to costs associated with ATLAANZ events, with ATLAANZ covering the cost of catering and some additional expenses. However, with many institutions now engaging in corporate catering contracts, the opportunities for low-cost alternatives are becoming increasingly limited.

While the administration of the organisation is largely dependent on volunteers, there are also ongoing costs associated with hosting services, such as the ATLAANZ website and ATLAANZ Journal, as well as other overheads.

The move to online and blended events due to Covid has meant that the impacts of inflation have been mitigated in 2020 and 2021. However, there is a need to ensure expenses are covered and events do not run at a loss in future.

In addition, in recent years, several larger organisations have made inquiries about “Institutional” membership. These inquiries have focused on:

- a) an expectation of discounted rates when registering multiple learning advisors from the same institution;
- b) a desire to simplify the invoicing/payment processes; and
- c) the ability to transfer membership when one person leaves a learning advisor position, and is subsequently replaced.

At present there are 14 institutions that have five or more members, including four that have 10 or more members. However, with the merger of Polytechnics and ITOs into Te Pūkenga, a decision about “Institutional” membership could have significant implications.

Creating a class of “Institutional” membership would require significant constitutional changes, to determine member benefits and voting rights, and specify how many people within an organisation would be covered by “Institutional” member benefits. Considerations include:

- whether all members of an institution would be eligible to attend events at members rates or just learning advisors;
- whether all members of an institution would be eligible to apply for research and travel grants or just learning advisors;
- how many votes an “Institutional” member would have at AGMs and SGMs; and
- what potential risks there might be from larger “Institutional” members block voting.

The ATLAANZ Executive therefore recommends a modest increase in fees, and a small fees discount for organisations registering multiple members, acknowledging that this does not address all of the requests made by larger institutions.

Alternatively, a major change to the Rules of the Constitution to create a class of “Institutional” membership could be undertaken, in consultation with members, and approved at a subsequent AGM or SGM. However, the Exec would like a mandate from members, if this work is to proceed.

Proposed changes

- 1. That membership fees be raised from \$40 to \$45 per person per year.**
- 2. That a discounted fee of \$42.50 per person per year be available to institutions registering 5-9 members.**
- 3. That a discounted fee of \$40 per person per year be available to institutions registering 10 or more members.**
- 4. That the ATLAANZ Constitution be amended, in consultation with members, to create a class of “Institutional” membership.**

Recommendations

1. THAT the proposed increase of membership fees from \$40 to \$45 per person per year be approved.
2. THAT the proposed discounted fee of \$42.50 per person per year available to institutions registering 5-9 members be approved.
3. THAT the proposed discounted fee of \$40 per person per year available to institutions registering 10 or more members be approved.
4. THAT the proposal to amend the ATLAANZ Constitution, in consultation with members, to create a class of “Institutional” membership not be approved.

Dawn Marsh
ATLAANZ Secretary
November 2021