



Australian Association for Unmanned Systems

2021 Annual General Meeting

Proposed Motions

Put forward by: Reece Clothier, on behalf of the AAUS Governance Working Group.

Motion 1 (AAUS Name Change)

MOTION 1: That the members of the Association, pursuant to Section 13 of the RULES OF AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR UNMANNED SYSTEMS, change by way of special resolution, the name of AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR UNMANNED SYSTEMS (AAUS) to AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR UNCREWED SYSTEMS (AAUS).

NOTE: The rationale behind the proposed name change is detailed in the explanatory notes.

Notes on voting process:

An eligible Member may vote either:

- *for* the motion, by voting for the motion and for one of the alternatives listed under the motion or
- *against* the motion.

Motion 2 (Update of AAUS Rules)

MOTION 2: That the members of the Association, pursuant to Section 13 of the RULES OF AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR UNMANNED SYSTEMS, change by way of special resolution the particulars contained in the RULES OF AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR UNMANNED SYSTEMS to add a number of minor updates to remain compliant with the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) and associated publications.

NOTE: The changes to the RULES OF AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION FOR UNMANNED SYSTEMS required to implement this motion are detailed in the explanatory notes.

Notes on voting process:

An eligible Member may vote either:

- *for* the motion, by voting for the motion and for one of the alternatives listed under the motion or
- *against* the motion.

Explanatory Notes – MOTION ONE

Background

Over the last decade we have seen a significant maturation in stakeholder understanding and expectation in relation to our industry. Further, there has been change in broader societal and cultural expectations / norms that, while not associated directly with our industry, are changing the socio-political environment within which our Association exists.

Over the last six months there has been a significant discussion within our community in relation to the name of our sector, its relevance, recognisability and alignment with changing norms. This in turn has driven discussion on the name of our Association. This is not new: we have experienced numerous changes in terminology over the last 20 years (e.g., from RPV, ROV, UAV, UAS, RPAS to drone). Historically, AAUS has already undergone one name change, beginning as AUVS-Australia. While we should avoid changing our name just to keep up with short-term trends, the situation driving the discussion today is one we believe to be enduring.

Key stakeholders, including Government, Defence, and major corporate supporters have recognised and have already changed the language they use internally and externally in relation to our sector. For example, Australian Defence now use the term ‘uncrewed’ in place of the term ‘unmanned’. Further, CASA are now reviewing Part 101 and associated manual of standards with the view to adopting more gender neutral language. The Board has received numerous inquiries as to if and when we will be doing the same.

Internationally, the FAA Advisory Committee has made the recommendation to the FAA to adopt gender neutral terms across the aviation sector and not just the RPAS industry Ref. [3]. Large multi-national companies, including Boeing and Textron, have also made the move to adopt more inclusive terminology.

Our biggest stakeholder is the Australian public who have no connection or understanding of industry terminology such as UAS / RPAS, preferring to use the term ‘drone’ to describe autonomous land, sea and airborne systems. By failing to use a recognisable term, we struggle to build the recognition with this important stakeholder group.

Changing the name is also consistent with one of the Association’s Core Values as reviewed and accepted by the Board [PRO-02]. Specifically,

“AAUS Values and encourages DIVERSITY

As an industry we have much to gain through proactively encouraging and sustaining greater diversity in our membership and broader industry. It is key to our future and a critical enabler of the innovation our sector is known for. We have a responsibility to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all of our activities; an environment free from discrimination; and a culture that values and celebrates the uniqueness of the individuals who form our industry. We should continually and actively explore how we can support greater diversity within our industry – as we all benefit from it.”

A name change would be consistent with the values of the Association and in particular, would be consistent with the Association’s commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion. A decision not to pursue a name change would be inconsistent with these values, and actions to mitigate this issue would need to be undertaken.

Process to Here

A paper was submitted to the AAUS board on the 21st May 2021 with a proposal to change the name of the Association. In response to the motion put forward in the paper, the AAUS board made a decision to form a small working group to assess the proposal, and to make a recommendation to be considered at the next Board meeting (August). A call for volunteers was made, however, due to a low response, the Board Executive took the action to address the matter.

A paper was prepared by the Executive and tabled at the August Board meeting. The paper discussed the motivating reasons for a change to the name of the Association. It discussed a number of identified risks, issues and opportunities associated with two possible outcomes: 1) the Association change its name, and 2) the Association does not change its name. The Executive made a recommendation to the Board to change the name of the Association, which was unanimously supported by the Board.

As an outcome of the August Board meeting, the Association Executive was tasked with presenting a recommendation on a new name for an out of session decision. During the Aug Board meeting, the Executive presented some initial options on an approach for Board consideration. While not a formally accepted Board motion, the general position of the Board was to pursue a “low complexity” approach over a significant rebranding exercise. The low complexity approach favoured a small change that preserved the original “AAUS” brand and name to the maximum extent possible. The approach would seek to make a small change to the current name, maintaining brand identity/association, minimising branding/logo redesign and therefore representing a lower complexity option in terms of implementation.

A low complexity approach was preferred as discussed in the August Board Meeting. Following this approach, the Executive explored two “low-complexity” options: 1) Retaining the acronym AAUS and look for name options that match the acronym, e.g.: **Australian Association for Uncrewed Systems** or **Autonomous AU**stralia; or 2) changing the name of the Association to be the acronym (i.e., we are referred to as AAUS).

After extensive discussion, the Executive concluded to pursue option 1) above and in so doing retaining the acronym and brand identity. It was felt that abbreviating the association to an acronym was too reliant on stakeholders having historical knowledge of the existing identity. Further, the name ‘AAUS’ could not stand on its own without the use of a tag line. A number of terms were considered to replace “unmanned”. Options include:

1. Uncrewed – favoured by key national and international stakeholders (Department, CASA, Defence, FAA, etc.) and applicable to all three domains (land, sea, air). The term may not be well understood by a general public audience.
2. Unoccupied – Applicable to all three domains (land, sea, air). Not likely to be easily understood by the general public. Not a term that is being adopted by broader stakeholders. The term may not be well understood by a general public audience.
3. Uninhabited – Historically used for air domain. Applicable to all three domains (land, sea, air). Not likely to be easily understood by the general public. Not a term that is being adopted by broader stakeholders.
4. Unpiloted – Historical term, biased applicability to air domain. Perhaps leading to public misconception that there is “no person in control” of the system. Not a term that is being adopted by broader stakeholders.

It was acknowledged that all of the above terms were only likely to be “placeholders” in that a term appropriate for the sector has yet to emerge and will continue to change with society’s increasing awareness and understanding of the industry and its applications. The Executive did not feel there



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would be any significant consequences to Association if we had to reassess the name of the Association again, at which point a more comprehensive identity and brand refresh could be considered. It was also identified that most of the considered terms are not likely to be well understood by the general public. However, this could be offset by the use of appropriate tag lines.

Considering the above factors, the Executive decided on the term “uncrewed”. While it is acknowledged that “uncrewed” is still emerging, it is the term most prominently being adopted by stakeholders such as the Department, CASA, Defence, FAA and some industry.

The Executive also referred the proposal to the Diversity and Inclusion Working Group for consideration. The response from the D&I working group was supportive of the proposal. A paper was then submitted to the Board at the October Board meeting, with the motion for AAUS to change its name to the Australian Association for Uncrewed Systems (AAUS), which was passed. In accordance with the rules of the association, a proposal to change the name of the Association must be tabled as a motion at the upcoming AGM. Members can vote upon the motion but a special majority (> 75%) is required in order for it to pass.

Should the motion pass at the AGM, then a change management process will be undertaken.

Explanatory Notes – MOTION TWO

AAUS aims to clean up a number of sections within the Rules of the Association to add greater clarity to members and also to remain compliant with the Associations Incorporation Act (SA) and associated publications.

The following changes to the Rules of the Association are required to implement the above proposal.

Changes are shown by highlight. **Current Rule**, **Proposed Rule**.

Section 5.1 Membership Types

Current

5. MEMBERSHIP

- a. Membership in the association is open to all individuals and all organisations.

Any person who supports the objects of the association and agrees to be bound by its rules and who applies for membership of the association may apply for membership in writing. Upon the acceptance of the application by the committee and upon payment of the first annual subscription, the applicant shall be a member of the association

Proposed

5. MEMBERSHIP

5.1 Types

Membership in the association is open to all individuals and all organisations.

- a. Individual Member

Any person who supports the objects of the association and agrees to be bound by its rules and who applies for membership of the association may apply for membership in writing. Upon the acceptance of the application by the committee and upon payment of the first annual subscription, the applicant shall be an individual member of the association.

- b. Corporate Member

Any organisation who supports the objects of the association and agrees to be bound by its rules and who applies for membership of the association may apply for membership in writing. Upon the acceptance of the application by the committee and upon payment of the first annual subscription, the applicant shall be a corporate member of the association.

Different corporate membership categories may exist to cater for different sized organisations. Corporate memberships will enable bundles of individuals from that organisation to be specified in the corporate membership.

Section 7 The Seal

Currently no section exists.

Proposed

7. THE SEAL

The Association does not use a common seal for any documents. Contracts made by or on behalf of the Association are required to be in writing and be signed by a Council member or the Executive Director as defined by Association delegate of authority processes.

Section 8.7 Special and Ordinary Resolutions

Currently no section exists.

Proposed

8.7 Special and Ordinary Resolutions

- a. A special resolution is a resolution passed at a duly convened meeting of the members of the association if
 - i) at least 21 days written notice specifying the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution has been given to all members of the association; and
 - ii) it is passed at a meeting referred to in this paragraph by a majority of not less than three-quarters of such members of the association as, being entitled to do so, vote in person or, where proxies are allowed, by proxy, at that meeting;
- b. An ordinary resolution is a resolution passed by a simple majority at a general meeting.

Section 10 Dispute Resolution

Currently no section exists.

Proposed

10. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- a. The dispute resolution procedure set out in this rule applies to disputes under these Rules between:
 - i) a member and another member

ii) a member and the association

b. The parties to the dispute must meet and discuss the matter in dispute and, if possible, resolve the dispute within 14 days after the dispute comes to the attention of all of the parties.

c. If the parties are unable to resolve the dispute at the meeting the parties may choose to meet and discuss the dispute before an independent third person agreed to by the parties.