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Subject: Resignation and hope for change
Date: 2 January 2023 at 13:53
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Hello everyone,

Before proceeding any further, I would like to wish all of you a safe, healthy, and auspicious new year!

I am part of the AAI Advisory Council, having joined in late 2020. Having a chance to be a part of such an excellent and prestigious organization that works to safeguard freethought and dissidents from all over the world, was something that I could not miss. Regrettably over the past year and a half, and partly due to time differences where I reside, I have been unable to be active as I should be in the meetings. This is something I sincerely apologize for.

Nevertheless, over the past year or so, I have come across some stunning allegations concerning the AAI Board, and the developments have been disconcerting. Looking at the documents and in particular starting with the so-called "Disclosure Document", I cannot help but think that not enough has been done to correct the issue. The allegations and the wrongdoings admitted to are extremely serious, and it reflects on our integrity as an organization.

I believe that an overhaul is due, and that outright new elections should be conducted. If indeed there is conviction and that we believe that we are correct, then we should not be afraid about having new elections. That to me would truly signal a fresh start and extend an olive branch to those who were wronged. A lot of negative outcomes have affected AAI, including our status at the Council of Europe being revoked. This affects our activism, and all that we seek to achieve, which is to protect atheists, non-believers, dissidents, and freethinkers. In the long run, they are the most affected because of this mess, and it is a disservice to our motto. If we cannot be accountable to ourselves, how can we ever be trusted to do good work?

Reading through the material and speaking to a few people, I sense a lot of unease, discomfort, and unwillingness to acknowledge the extent of the damage done to AAI due to this controversy. I cannot be a mute or an unwilling participant in this affair any further, and to that end, I hereby tender my resignation as part of the AAI Advisory Council. It is not at all out of spite, but simply out of a desire that actual change is made and the mistakes are properly corrected and accounted for. I do not wish to burn any bridges and I sincerely hope to return to AAI in some capacity! Once again, I must reiterate my apologies for being inactive in the internal affairs and meetings of AAI over the past year and a half, but this matter is too serious to not speak out on.

I understand that we want to move on from this affair asap, but one cannot do so fully without honestly acknowledging past mistakes. The upcoming EGM simply does not sound like we are ready to make a fresh start. Half-heartedness and unwillingness will only do us harm, and thus I earnestly urge the Board to rethink this matter with the utmost seriousness and take the necessary steps. The last thing AAI would want is to have its board's legitimacy questioned for eternity, because that would only continuously diminish our reputation.

I hope that this scandal is resolved honestly and appropriately, and I sincerely wish for AAI to return to its former glory.

Kind regards,
Pranav Mohanty

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Astrophysicist, Data Scientist