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**Response to Commissioner O’Reilly’s Keynote**

Commissioner Michael O’Reilly’s Keynote focused on the topic of the day, Technology Optimism and Pessimism. He discussed the purpose and role of regulation in technology, expressing that regulatory action should only be enacted when necessary and for the public benefit. O’Reilly justified this approach to regulation as a means to cultivate innovation in technology, allowing it the environment necessary to grow and prosper.

O’Reilly is optimistic about many advances in technology. His discussion of AI’s ability to become smarter than a human was very interesting. It asks the question, is AI able to take over human functions such as the jobs we do every day. If self-learning AI can be taught to learn and apply our standards of when regulation is necessary and what level of regulation is appropriate, can we achieve an unbiased method of regulation that always benefits the public, avoiding politics and corporation influence? This seems far fetched but could actually be very near in the future. O’Reilly’s optimism in AI and its abilities was clear and he believes that in time, as humans learn to trust AI, we will be able to expand and integrate AI into our daily lives.

O’Reilly also expresses optimism in our abilities to expand our database of knowledge, better known as the internet. He provides examples of our progression in the form of 5G networks and satellite technologies. His belief is that accessibility to the internet allows for access to knowledge that can be used for innovation and transformation. O’Reilly also discusses changes in price models and cost of services, using the example of texting to explain how the world of technology and services is ever changing. He points out the rapid switch from price per text to unlimited texting and calling, where providers are unable to compete with apps such as WhatsApp and other alternatives, therefore essentially being forced into providing fully encompassing phone plans.

O’Reilly’s discusses the importance of both those who are innovating and progressing in the tech sphere, and those who regulate and view innovations through the public eye. “Tech naivete” is a term I haven’t heard and a topic I found very interesting and relevant. Those with the smartest brains, who create and mold our technology, can sometimes lack and idea of public view. They see the public as equal to them, forgetting that issues they find obvious and can easily avoid, the public are oblivious to. Since much of my major is programming, I see both sides of this issue. At times, I forget about user error, even when it’s as simple as accounting for space or case sensitivity in a user’s input. But adaptability in programs, even with discrepancies as simple as the ones I mentioned, make a huge difference in functionality and usability of the program. The goal of technology is to benefit the public, either by making certain tasks easier or to expand and encourage our search of knowledge. Consciousness of public use is one of the most important aspects of usable technology. Therefore, I find O’Reilly’s discussion of ‘tech naivete’ to be one of the most important issues discussed in his keynote.

O’Reilly repeated pointed out the decreasing role of the FCC in regulation of the technology space. He discusses how the Commission has not been given newer regulatory authority which is now becoming the decision of the providers in cooperation with the public. The involvement of the players in the tech space is crucial in the advancements of technology. The more involvement there is in innovation and regulation, the more applicable and usable technology is to the masses, furthering the progression of our society and its abilities.